

**WARREN
MAGAZINE**

**VAMPIRE
#51**

MAY 1976

ROBOTS! ZOMBIES! ALIENS! THE LIVING DEAD!

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VAMPIRELLA

**ZOMBIE CORPSES
HOWL FOR
HUMAN FLESH!
VAMPIRELLA FIGHTS
"THE CURSE
OF THE UNDEAD!"**

**HUMANS FACE
EXTINCTION ON
"THE EDGE
OF TOMORROW!"**



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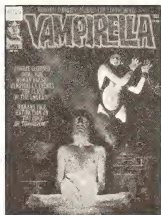


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OUR COVER
VAMPIRELLA is threatened by an ancient curse conjured by a long dead French marquis. Undead corpses are called to life in this stunning painting by Sanjulian!

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VAMPIRELLA®

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THE CURSE OF THE UNDEAD

Corpses stalked the streets... eager to rend human flesh. They had done so for ninety years... ever since the last of the marquis' executioners had died. But they had never met a human like VAMPIRELLA!

17

THE EDGE OF TOMORROW

Linda and Peter Marsh wanted a baby. But the computers said no! Childbearing was a function of machines. Child-rearing was too important to be left to humans. Pete conceived a mad plan that heralded humanity's end!

25

UNCLE WIGGLY'S MAGIC BOX

Uncle Wiggly had always been a lively, enterprising and stubborn man. Death didn't change him one bit. He simply refused to lie there quietly in his plush coffin and be seemly, solemnly and sedately dead!

33

WHITECHAPEL

Maria had disappeared. The search led me to a Dr. Ernest F. Kanin, who had been thrown out of his village for his strange medical practices. But I didn't realize his name was an anagram for terror... until it was too late!

41

CASTLE, DUNGEON & ALL

He had trained for years in the arts that would defend his king and God. His squire, John Tremayne, had studied arts sure to offend either. An oddly matched pair that would journey to world's end to find truth!

50

THE 1975 WARREN AWARDS

Warren's artists are phenomenal. Warren's writers are terrific! How can anyone say who is the best? How can anyone choose the winners of the 1975 Warren Awards? Who would be your award choices for 1975?

Vampi's Scarlet Letters...



Well, you finally did it! For the last six issues of VAMPIRELLA, since issue #43 in fact, you've kept everyone waiting with baited breath for the death or final salvation of Pendragon!

First, VAMPIRELLA and Pendragon were shot. With VAMPI's alien healing powers, she was up and around the same issue, but Pandy was still in a coma.

In #43, Conrad Van Helsing was killed (we thought). Then, after a few issues of flashbacks, Adam Van Helsing set out to avenge his father and got himself arrested in the process!

Now, after two unexciting interim adventures, VAMPIRELLA has gotten back to the real problem: Pendragon. For a while I was convinced that he, too, would be sacrificed, but on that point I was proven wrong... with the fabulous "The Blood Red Queen of Hearts!"

"The Blood Red Queen of Hearts" was one of Warren's best tales ever! Finally the tremendous tension built up through the preceding issues was eased and I actually felt a weight leave my mind when Pendragon saved the day with a spectacular feat of magic, instead of just standing there waiting for VAMPIRELLA to change into a bat. It seems that the revived Pendragon is better... sharper than ever... possible due to his transfusion with Drakulonian blood.

This great tale also tied up all the loose ends created in previous stories... an almost impossible task since it involved a situation with a major supporting character dead, his son in jail, and another, dying in the hospital. But Bill DuBay did it.

And even though Adam played a minor role, it's good to have him back in VAMPIRELLA once again.

GEORGE HAYES
Norwood, Mass.

On the last page of the "Succubus Stone" in VAMPIRELLA #49, the two panels at the top of the page show the detective, Mathewson, holding a gun. In the first panel, the gun is a revolver. In the second picture, the gun is an automatic. I was wondering why he has two different guns in the same sequence?

STEPHEN ROBERTS
Rockwood, Tenn.



Our mistake, Stephen. Unless, of course, Mathewson held a revolver in his right hand and an automatic in his left!

"Then One Foggy Christmas Eve" was great!

Gerry Boudreau's plot was really original... frightening and almost funny!

Having barely survived the Christmas rush and madness, I can appreciate the subtlety of the alien mind that engineered such an incredible scheme of infiltration. It showed a sophisticated understanding of American consumerism. (Interestingly enough, my own brother received a "moving mechanical monster" of sorts, for Christmas! Kids love 'em!)

So aliens, disguised as such desirable possessions, would have no trouble infiltrating American homes.

And as a New Yorker, I thoroughly enjoyed the ending. To get rid of the pesky critters, that small town crated 'em and shipped 'em to us!

Gosh, maybe I'd better check my brother's "monster" more carefully!

ALEXANDER RUDNEY
Manhattan, N.Y.

The Esteban Maroto/Bill DuBay VAMPIRELLA #49 collaboration "The Blood Red Queen of Hearts" and "The Oblong Box" by Rich Margopoulos and Isidro Mones were, by far, the best stories and best art to appear in VAMPIRELLA #49!

I certainly appreciate the effort that went into Ramon Torrents' art in "The Thing in Jane's Closet," but Budd Lewis' story ended somewhat abruptly.

I would have liked to have seen "the thing" that was actually skulking in the closet.

"Then One Foggy Christmas Eve" had a fair story line and fine Blazquez art. I really loved the appearance of these grizzly, furry little alien-animals!

"The Jewel in the Mouth of the Snake" and "The Succubus Stone" weren't stories... they were Christmas turkeys. Their endings were predictable and their art was merely mediocre.

I don't understand all the fuss over which artist draws VAMPIRELLA. I like Gonzalo Mayo's work and that of Jose Gonzalez! I'd like to see both of them drawing the series!

JULES RENEE
Lansing, Mich.

In VAMPIRELLA #49, "The Succubus Stone" by Gerry Boudreau and Steve Clement was marred by a lack of grit in Ramon Torrents artwork.

I have never seen a big city look so clean and un-vandalized. The women look like girl models for the Sears/Robuck Catalogue.

Please put Torrents on jobs where his art will shine. New York City is not for him!

DICK KANIPSIA
West Roxbury, Mass.

"The Succubus Stone" was an all round professional job. Ramon Torrents, with his usual flair for realism, caught the flavor of Manhattan perfectly! And captured the incredible drama as the succubi devoured soul after male soul! (I particularly liked it when the phony Texan got his!)

"The Succubus Stone" was a particularly good choice for color. Garish though it was in spots, the color added immensely to the story's impact... and its believability!

Gerry Boudreau's ending was particularly effective, as the Succubi, along with Detective Matheson's case, turned to dust as the stone shattered.

Matheson uncharacteristically looks forward to an ordinary weekend with "knifings, muggings, burglaries, and perhaps a murder or two." And VAMPIRELLA readers understand perfectly!

SETH GRAHAM
Queens, N.Y.

I've been a VAMPIRELLA fan since issue #1!

I have always been a sucker for fantastic art and, over the years, VAMPIRELLA has been portrayed by some of the best!

I've read all the VAMPIRELLA paperbacks, and they are great!

But what has always captivated me is VAMPIRELLA herself! She has something neither CREEPY or EERIE will ever have. Believers. People who read her books for her adventures alone. The others tales are dessert and appetizers but VAMPI is certainly the main course!

My friends and fellow sailors read every issue I get aboard ship, so VAMPI has a shipload of fans!

LARRY G. HIX
U.S.S. Brumby, N.Y.

VAMPIRELLA #49 was an excellent Christmas special.

The VAMPI tale was fine with outstanding script and art by Bill DuBay and Esteban Maroto.

Other stories... with work by great writers like Gerry Boudreau, Budd Lewis and Rich Margopoulos... with fine artists like Ramon Torrents, Joaquin Blazquez and Isidro Mones, were all excellent.

The only story I didn't like, in fact, was Jose Bea's "The Jewel In The Mouth of A Snake." I don't much care for Bea's simplistic art, and the story was completely unbelievable, and therefore, not at all scary!

Another, more realistically handled, tale concerning the feathered serpent, the Aztec god Quetzilcoatl, might be in order for a future issue!

STEPHEN PIROS
Edison, N.J.

I am happy that I can now read Warren's original VAMPIRELLA! In Germany, this magazine has often proved difficult to find!

I first learned of Warren Publishing and VAMPIRELLA in 1972 in Paris, where I bought the French edition of VAMPIRELLA... it had appeared there since 1971.

Immediately, I was fascinated and became one of VAMPI's more rapt admirers. So, of course, I was delighted when, in September of 1973, an all-color German version was published.

Unfortunately, this edition could have been better. Compared to the French version, the stories were abridged, with one, or even two pages omitted. At any rate, the German VAMPIRELLA discontinued publication in October of 1974. So again I bought the French editions. I just hadn't learned where to get the American originals yet!

In October of last year, I discovered VAMPIRELLA (the American version) #43, in the Hannover Airport! I filled out the subscription form and sent it in as fast as I could.

I have received the American VAMPIRELLA from issue #48 onward. I'm going to order all the back issues, too, since I think that VAMPIRELLA is the greatest achievement in comics since E.C.

Thrilling stories and fine art produce the best that is seen in comics today. There has never been such a beautiful heroine as Vampiella!

Greetings on your 50th Anniversary issue, and my best wishes for the next five decades!

PETER AUFWUTH
Uetze, W. Germany

opinions? write...

VAMPI'S SCARLET LETTERS

c/o Warren Publishing
145 E. 32nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

VAMPIRELLA

THEY'RE NOTHING
BUT... WALKING
CORPSES!

NEW YORK HAS BEEN
HECTIC, TO SAY THE
LEAST FOR VAMPIRELLA
AND PENDRAGON. A
QUIET VACATION...
A RELAXING CHANGE
OF SCENE IS IN
ORDER, BUT EVENTS
FOLLOWING THIS
DECISION ARE ANY-
THING BUT
RELAXING!

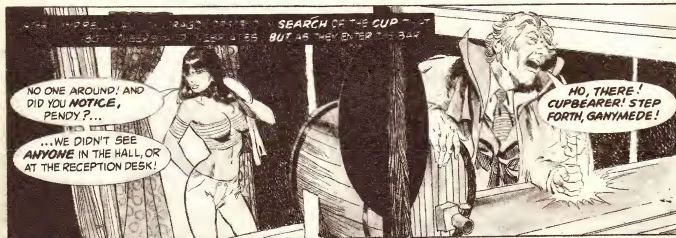
RISE of the UNDEAD

VAMPIRELLA AND PENDRAGON ARE VACATIONING IN FRANCE...TRAVELING INCOGNITO IN A HIRED AUTOMOBILE THAT, AFTER MUCH SUFFERING DEPARTS THIS LIFE ABOUT TWO MILES SHY OF A SMALL VILLAGE, IN A REMOTE FOLD OF "LES ALPES MARITIMES". THEY DO THE REST ON FOOT, WITH PENDRAGON BRINGING ALONG THE BAGGAGE.

PENDY, THIS COULD TURN OUT TO BE A **LUCKY BREAK**. IT'S SO LOVELY HERE, AND THERE'S SURE TO BE A HOTEL IN THE VILLAGE.

LET US INDEED **HOPE** SO, M'DEAR, AND LET US HOPE THAT IT BOASTS A **BARMAN** WHO CAN BUILD A TOLERABLE WHISKY SOUR!

UUUHHH...FOR A GIRL WHOSE COSTUME VERGES ON THE **VES-TIGIAL**, YOU SURE PACK A LOT INTO A SUITCASE!



OUTSIDE IN THE VILLAGE SQUARE, THE LURID RAYS OF **THE DYING SUN** GIVE THE ANCIENT BUILDINGS A **BLOODY** HUE. THERE IS NOT A SIGN OF A LIVING SOUL... BUT VAMPIRELLA SEES...

THEY COULD HAVE ALL
**PACKED INTO A BAR AT
THE OTHER END OF TOWN...**

HORRIFIED EYES STARE
OUT FOR A BRIEF IN-
STANT... AND THEN THE
SHUTTER SLAMS **SHUT!**

THEIR FOOTSTEPS ECHO
HOLLOWLY ON COBBLESTONES,
AS THEY PASS THE CHURCH...
THE GRAVEYARD...

...AND THEN...

**PENDY! LOOK!
UP AT THAT
WINDOW!**

LOOK! THAT
GRAVE...

...IT'S...IT'S
OPENING!

THIS IS ALL I
NEED TO SEE!

I'VE SEEN
THE **LIGHT.**

I'LL **NEVER**
TOUCH ANOTHER
DROP!

BEFORE THEIR HORRIFIED GAZE, THE **TOMB** YAWNS
OPEN, GUIDED BY THE TOUCH OF AN EMACIATED
HAND...

NOT ANOTHER
DROP!

THE **LONG-DEAD EYES** DEVOID OF ALL HUMANITY, MEET THEIRS. LONG IMMERSION IN A DAMP AND SULLEN GRAVE HAS **ROTTED** AND **PUTREFIED** NOT ONLY FLESH, SINEW, SKIN, MEMBRANE...



...IT HAS **FOULED** THE VERY SPIRIT, THAT STILL LINGERS WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE STINKING SKULL...

...LEAVING ONLY **MALEVOLENCE** AND **BLIND, BESTIAL BLOOD-LUST!!**



FROM ALL OVER THE **CHARNEL-FIELD**, OTHERS ARE **RISEING!**



BACK TO THE HOTEL, PENDY! THERE'S MORE **HORROR** HERE THAN WE CAN HANDLE!

DON'T WANT TO LOOK ON THE **GLOOMY** SIDE, VAMPI...

BUT WHAT DO WE DO IF THE PATRON'S **LOCKED US OUT?**



BUT WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT THE HANGED MAN HOTEL, SOMEONE ELSE IS HAMMERING FOR AD-MITTANCE!

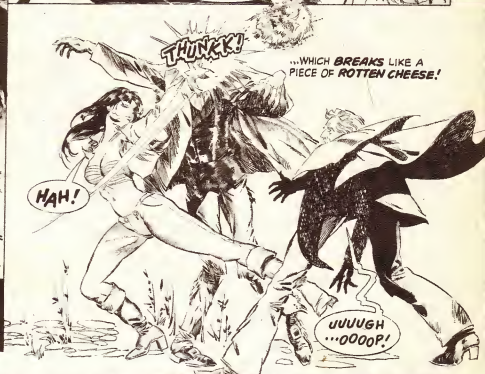


WELL DONE, FRIEND!

DEAD EYES TURN TO REGARD THEM; THEY RETCH AT THE NAUSEATING PUTREFACTION! A ROTTING HAND GRABS AT THE LOVELY DRAKULONNE!



NO STRANGER TO THE ANCIENT ARTS OF **MARTIAL COMBAT**, VAMPI DELIVERS A **KARATE CHOP** TO THE THROAT...

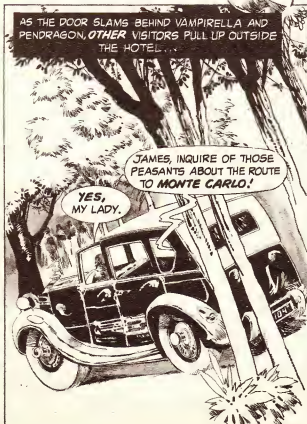


...WHICH **BREAKS** LIKE A PIECE OF **ROTTEN CHEESE!**

BUT THE **HEADLESS TORSO** CONTINUES TO GRAPPLE FOR THEM, WHEN THE PATRON EMERGES!



AS THE DOOR SLAMS BEHIND VAMPIRELLA AND PENDRAGON, **OTHER** VISITORS PULL UP OUTSIDE THE HOTEL...



IF "THE LOCAL PEASANTS" NEITHER **LOOK** NOR **SMELL** VERY WELL, THE BRITISH CHAUFFEUR IS TOO WELL TRAINED TO **NOTICE** IT.







"THEY TOOK THE PROUD AND OVERBEARING SEIGNEUR, MONSIEUR LE MARQUIS DE SANGLANT, AND HUNG HIM AT HIS OWN DOOR!"

TAKE YOUR DUNG-STAINED HANDS OFF ME, ANIMALS!

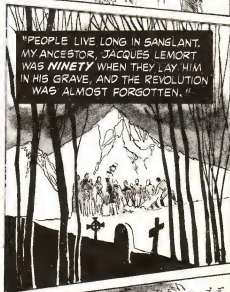


"THEN...FROM THE LIVID LIPS OF THE DYING MAN...ISSUED A CURSE THAT WAS TERRIBLE IN ITS PRECISION AND CLARITY..."



...FOR THIS DEED YOU WILL NEVER REST IN YOUR GRAVES! YOU WILL WALK ABROAD ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THIS EVE, FEEDING UPON YOUR OWN KIND... TILL THE WRONG HAS BEEN EXPIATED!

"PEOPLE LIVE LONG IN SANGLANT. MY ANCESTOR, JACQUES LEMORT WAS NINETY WHEN THEY LAY HIM IN HIS GRAVE, AND THE REVOLUTION WAS ALMOST FORGOTTEN."



"ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARQUIS' DEATH, THE UNDEAD CORPSE OF JACQUES LEMORT ROSE FROM ITS TOMB!"



WHO...WHO'S
THAT?

"THAT NIGHT, A VILLAGER RETURNED
LATE PAST THE GRAVEYARD!"



WHAT'S TO
BE DONE?

IT'S THE
MARQUIS' CURSE!



"THEY FOUND HIS BONES, NEXT MORNING,
BY THE GRAVEYARD WALL... **PICKED CLEAN!**"

WE MUST KEEP IT A
SECRET FROM THE WORLD,
OR OUR VILLAGE WILL BE
OUTLAWED!

WE WILL BE **CAST
OUT** BY THE REST OF
HUMANITY!



IT HAS BEEN
SO EVER SINCE.

**EVERY YEAR, ON THE
ANNIVERSARY, THE DEAD
WALK** THE VILLAGE FROM
SUNSET TO SUNSET... AND **EAT**
THE **FLESH** OF ALL WHO
FALL INTO THEIR HANDS!

IT'S HORRIBLE!
...HORRIBLE!

CAN'T **SOME-
BODY** STOP IT?



I THINK THAT THE
PRESENT MARQUIS, WHO
STILL LIVES IN THE CHATEAU,
COULD REVERSE HIS ANCESTOR'S
CURSE. HE COULD HOLD OUT THE
HAND OF FORGIVENESS TO
THE DESCENDANTS OF THE
MEN WHO SLEW HIS ANCESTOR...

...BUT HE IS A HARD AND
UNBENDING MAN, LIKE ALL HIS
BREED... HE WILL **NEVER**
DO IT!

I SHALL GO AND
SEE THE MARQUIS!



WE'LL SEE IF
I CAN
PERSUADE HIM!

NEXT MORNING, THE GATES OF THE HOTEL
YARD FLY OPEN AND **VAMPIRELLA**
RIDES OUT!

GIDDAP!

HAVE CARE, MADAME!
REMEMBER THE UNDEAD
WALK TILL **SUNSET!**

SHE IS BRAVE,
THAT ONE!

GUUUUHH...

A GHASTLY **STENCH OF DEATH** LIES
OVER THE SILENT VILLAGE, AND
CORPSES STALK THE STREETS,
SEARCHING FOR **VICTIMS**, BUT
VAMPIRELLA HAS LITTLE DIFFICULTY
IN AVOIDING THEM...

NAAAHHH...

AND SOON ARRIVES AT THE CHATEAU ON THE HILL.

NOW...TO SEE IF
I CAN CHARM THE
MARQUIS INTO
RELENTING!

EXTEND THE HAND-OF
FRIENDSHIP AND FORGIVENESS
TO THAT SPAWN OF THE GUTTER?

NEVER!

BUT, MARQUIS...

BUT NEITHER CHARM, NOR
ARGUMENT, NOR THREATS,
CAN **PENETRATE** THE
FRIGID HEART OF THE
ARISTOCRAT!

THE **LOWER ORDERS** WAIT ONLY FOR THE CALL AND THEY WILL MARCH **AGAIN!** TIMES HAVE NOT CHANGED! GIVEN A CHANCE, AND THEY WOULD **HANG** ME AT MY DOOR AS THEY **HANGED** MY ANCESTOR!



LET THEM **ROT!**
LET THEIR **DEAD**
EAT THEM UP!

I DO **NOT**,
MAM'SELLE! I
AM IN **LOVE** WITH
A MEMBER OF
WHAT MY FATHER
CALLS "**THE
LOWER
ORDERS!**"



COME... I WILL ESCORT
YOU BACK TO THE HOTEL.

VAMPIRELLA LEAVES, ANGRY AND UPSET BY THE MARQUIS' INDIFFERENCE. OUTSIDE, A YOUNG MAN GREET'S HER.



MAM'SELLE... I HEARD YOU
SPEAKING WITH MY FATHER. I
AM **ARMAND DE SANGLAN.**

DO YOU SHARE THE
MARQUIS'S VIEWS?

THE DISTRAUGHT HOTEL PATRON GREET'S
VAMPIRELLA. SHE HEARS IN HIS VOICE A
NOTE OF RISING HYSTERIA

MY **DAUGHTER!** MY
HORTENSE!... SHE HAS GONE
OUT **ALONE**, ON FOOT! THE
WALKING DEAD WILL
GET HER!

HORTENSE!
OH, NO!



HORTENSE IS THE
GIRL WHO?...



YES!

SHE MUST HAVE GONE
UP TO THE CHATEAU, TO
MEET ME!

WE HAVE NOT SEEN
EACH OTHER FOR **MANY
MONTHS**. SHE TOOK
THIS **AWFUL CHANCE...**

SHE MUST HAVE
TAKEN THE **SHORT CUT**
...ACROSS THE FIELDS!

LET'S HOPE WE
REACH HER BEFORE
THEY DO!



THROUGH BRAMBLE, OVER TILLED FIELDS THEY RIDE TILL
THEY SIGHT A SMALL FLEEING FIGURE. AND IT IS NOT
ALONE...



LOOK!

HORTENSE LEMORT IS ALREADY
REGRETTING THE IMPULSE
THAT SENT HER TO SEE ARMAND
DE SANGLAN. TERRIBLE
DEATH AND DEFILEMENT
CLOSE IN UPON HER...



WHEN LEATHERY **WINGS** BEATING THE
AIR...WICKED **EYES** GLEAMING...TINY,
NEEDLE-POINTED **FANGS** BARED... A
VAMPIRE BAT ATTACKS THE
CLOSEST CORPSE!



VAMPIRELLA RENDS AT THE ROTTEN
TISSUES OF A DEAD THROAT...SUCKS
DEEPLY OF A JUGULAR VEIN... **AND**
FINDS IT EMPTY!



VAMPIRELLA'S **DELICATELY-BALANCED**
METABOLISM IS TOTALLY UPSET BY
STRAIN AND STRESS...

...AND, IN HER EFFORTS TO RESCUE
THE INNOCENT GIRL FROM THE CLUTCHES
OF THE **WALKING DEAD**, VAMPIRELLA
BECOMES A **BLOOD-LUSTING KILLING-**
MACHINE...

...AND LASHES OUT...

RIGHT!...LEFT!!



MA CHERIE!

MON AMOUR!

ARMAND, REACHING DOWN,
SNATCHES UP THE GIRL HE
LOVES AND BEARS HER
TO SAFETY!

A SORRY PROCESSION OF WALKING
DEAD STRAGGLES BACK TO THE
VILLAGE OF SANGRANT, CARRYING
THEIR RIVEN LIMBS AND
SEVERED HEADS, THEY ENTER
THE GRAVEYARD, OBVIOUS TO THE
WONDERING STARES OF THE
VILLAGERS.

THEY'RE ALL GETTING
BACK INTO THEIR
GRAVES!

BUT... IT'S ANOTHER
SIX HOURS TO
SUNDOWN!

WHAT'S HAPPENED
TO CHANGE
EVERYTHING?

I THINK YOU'LL FIND
IT'S FINISHED! THE CURSE
IS PLAYED OUT! LOVE
HAS WIPED OUT AN
ANCIENT WRONG!

AS YOU SAY IN YOUR
WITTY GALIC WAY...
VIVE L'AMOUR!

WELL, WE SPREAD A
LITTLE SUNSHINE IN THAT
PLACE! ARMAND AND
HORTENSE ARE GOING
TO BE MARRIED.

THE MARQUIS WON'T LIKE
IT, BUT HE'S GOING TO HAVE
TO LEARN TO LIVE
WITH IT!

YES, IT'S BEEN A
FINE VACATION... NOT
EXACTLY RESTFUL
BUT CERTAINLY A
CHANGE FROM THE
BIG CITY!

The EDGE of Tomorrow

IT HAS BEEN NEARLY **FIFTY YEARS** SINCE THE COMMUNIST **TAKEOVER...** AND THINGS HAVE NOT WORKED OUT THE WAY **ANYONE** EXPECTED.

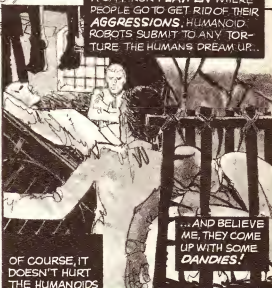
THE EARLY STAGES BROUGHT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ADVERSITY FOR **ALL** CLASSES, BUT GRADUALLY **TECHNOLOGY** AND **MASS MANIPULATION** PRODUCED CHANGES ENOUGH IN THE LIVING STANDARD TO PACIFY **EVERYBODY.**

LABOR, FROM MENIAL TO SUPERVISORY TASKS, BECAME FULLY **AUTOMATED**, AND THE BENEFITS OF INCREASED PRODUCTION WERE PASSED ON TO PEOPLE EVERYWHERE **EQUALLY.** OUR WORLD SAW THE **LAST** OF WAR, FAMINE, INJUSTICE, DISEASE. MAN HAD AT LAST REACHED **PERFECTION...** ...**ALMOST...**!

THE METEOROLOGICAL COMPUTER HAD DETERMINED THAT TODAY WOULD BE A FINE DAY, BUT I WOKE UP FEELING **BORED** AND **MISERABLE.** WEATHER, BE DAMNED. I SCANNED THE MORNING RECREATION-BULLETIN AND, FINDING NOTHING BETTER, DECIDED TO GO TO **TORTURE-**



TORTURE-AMA IS THE **ULTIMATE** IN CHEAP THRILLS... A CITY-RUN **PLAYPEN** WHERE PEOPLE GO TO GET RID OF THEIR **AGGRESSIONS.** HUMANOID ROBOTS SUBMIT TO ANY **TORTURE** THE HUMANS DREAM UP...



...AND BELIEVE ME, THEY COME UP WITH SOME **DANDIES!**

OF COURSE, IT DOESN'T HURT THE HUMANIDS ANY, BUT THEY **SCREAM** A LOT TO MAKE IT **SOUND GOOD.**



IT'S ALL A BIT **WEIRD**, BUT IT KEEPS VIOLENCE OFF THE **STREETS.**



FOR OTHER TYPES OF FRUSTRATION, THERE'S WHAT'S **AFFECTIONATELY** CALLED **THE BALLROOM...** EQUIPPED WITH **FEMINOID PROSTITUTES**, SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.

AS I SEE IT THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUT US ON A STRICT DIET OF **BREAD** AND **CIRCUSES**.

BUT THE BREAD'S A LITTLE **STALE**, I WAS NEVER VERY **THRILLED** OVER **CIRCUSES**.

I HEADED TOWARD THE BEACH, LOOKING FOR THE **ONE THING** THAT INSPIRED ME TO GET OUT OF **BED** MORNINGS. HER NAME WAS **LINDA SLADE**.



I FOUND HER, A BRONZE **MERMAID** IN A SEA OF FAT, PASTY **SUNBATHERS** MILLING LAZILY ALONG THE STRIP OF GOLDEN SAND. IT DIDN'T TAKE HER LONG TO SENSE MY **MOOD**.

YOU LOOK **TROUBED**. IS SOMETHING **WRONG**?

HOW COULD THERE BE? IF THERE WERE, A TEAM OF COMPUTERS WOULD **CORRECT** IT.



DON'T **PATRONIZE** ME. I WAS ONLY TRYING TO **HELP**.

LINDA, DID YOU EVER GET THE FEELING WE'RE **ABSOLUTE...** THAT **HUMANS** ARE **ABSOLUTE** BECAUSE WE'RE THE ONLY **IMPERFECT** THING, IN AN OTHERWISE **PERFECT** SOCIETY?

HER EYES TOLD ME THAT SHE **DIDN'T**.



YOU'RE **EXAGGERATING**. THINK OF ALL THE COMPUTERS HAVE **DONE** FOR US. THERE WAS A TIME OUR GRANDFATHERS HAD TO **STRUGGLE**, JUST TO **SURVIVE**.

WE NO LONGER **STRUGGLE**, BECAUSE WE NO LONGER HAVE A **REASON** TO. THE COMPUTERS HAVE TAKEN AWAY OUR **POWER** TO **CREATE**.

AREN'T YOU A LITTLE **OLD** TO BECOME AN **IDEALIST**?

I **THOUGHT** ABOUT THAT FOR A MOMENT. DAMNIT, IF A **WOMAN'S** GOING TO BE **OUTSPOKEN**, SHE SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE THE **DECENCY** TO BE **WRONG**.



I STILL SULKED INWARDLY AS WE RODE BACK TO LINDA'S APARTMENT. SHE TRIED A FEW TIMES TO STRIKE UP A CASUAL CONVERSATION, BUT I WASN'T HAVING ANY.

I WAS SICK OF TALKING. I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING.

BY THE TIME WE REACHED HER PLACE I'D ALREADY DECIDED WHAT I WANTED TO DO.

LINDA, WHY DON'T WE HAVE A BABY...?

ALL RIGHT. I'LL CALL THE INSEMINATION BOARD IN THE MORNING.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT. I'M TALKING ABOUT YOU AND ME...!

YOU KNOW THAT'S ILLEGAL. THE COMPUTERS HAVE FOUND THAT HUMAN MATING OFTEN PRODUCES INFERIOR OFFSPRING.

THE INSEMINATION BOARD PRODUCES ONLY GENETICALLY FIT SPECIMENS, EITHER BY CLONING OR ARTIFICIAL BREEDING.

THAT'S A CROCK OF --

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, PETER? YOU ACT LIKE ALL OF SOCIETY IS AGAINST YOU.

THERE IS NO SOCIETY, LINDA. ONLY MACHINES WHO THINK AND ACT THE WAY HUMANS SHOULD... AND HUMANS WHO BEHAVE AS THOUGH THEY WERE MADE OF NUTS AND BOLTS.

WE'VE BOTH READ OF WHAT THE WORLD WAS LIKE WHEN MACHINES RULED. THERE WAS WAR, CORRUPTION, HATRED...!

I KNOW IT'S CRAZY TO WISH THOSE THINGS BACK AGAIN, BUT AT LEAST THEN WE HAD SOMETHING TO DREAM ABOUT. WHEN YOU'VE REACHED THE TOP, THERE'S NO PLACE TO GO BUT BACK DOWN.

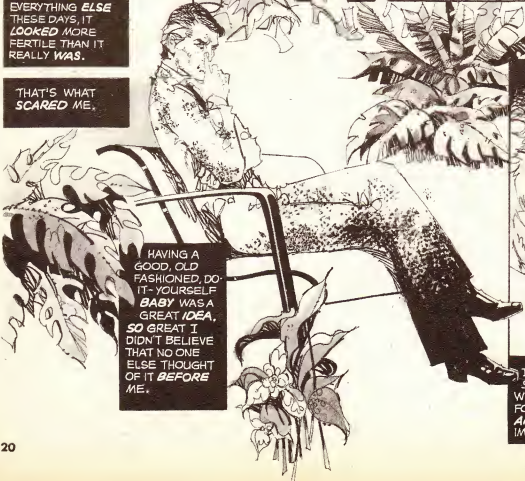
THINK ABOUT IT, LINDA... IF YOU STILL REMEMBER HOW.



I TOOK THE AUTO-SIDEWALK TO THE PUBLIC GARDENS, AN INDOOR REPLIC OF THE ONES THAT USED TO GROW NATURALLY. LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE THESE DAYS, IT LOOKED MORE FERTILE THAN IT REALLY WAS.



THAT'S WHAT SCARED ME.



HAVING A GOOD, OLD FASHIONED, DO-IT-YOURSELF BABY WAS A GREAT IDEA, SO GREAT I DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT NO ONE ELSE THOUGHT OF IT BEFORE ME.



I FIGURED THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER REASON WHY IT HADN'T BEEN DONE FOR FORTY YEARS. ONE ANSWER CAME IMMEDIATELY TO MIND.

IT WAS SOMETHING I DIDN'T WANT TO **THINK** ABOUT AND FORTUNATELY, I DIDN'T HAVE TO. A HAND TOUCHED MY SHOULDER, DISTRACTING ME.



NOT ANOTHER WORD, PETER. WE MAY **BOTH** BE FOOLS, BUT AT LEAST THAT MAKES US **SOMETHING**.



AS WE RODE BACK TO LINDA'S APARTMENT, I FELT... FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE... THAT I HAD SOMETHING TO LOOK **FORWARD** TO.



PROBABLY **NOT**. I SUSPECT THE COMPUTERS HAVE SEEN TO CONGENITAL **STERILIZATION** OF HUMANS, BUT WE CAN SURE HAVE FUN **FINDING OUT**.

DO YOU REALLY THINK WE CAN **DO IT**... HAVE A **CHILD**, I MEAN?

LINDA...

LATER I CONFRONTED HUBERT MAILER. HE HAD BEEN ONE OF THE CHIEF ARCHITECTS OF OUR PRESENT COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY. IF ANYONE WOULD HAVE THE ANSWERS, HE WOULD.



YEARS AGO, I WAS A LOYAL MEMBER OF THE **COMMUNIST PARTY**, JUST BEFORE THE **TAKE OVER**.

AS A SCIENTIST, I HELPED **DESIGN** THE COMPUTERS, SO I **KNOW** WHAT THEY'RE CAPABLE OF.

THEN WHY DID YOU--?

YOUR SUSPICIONS ARE **CORRECT**, YOUNG MAN. MOST OF THE **ORIGINAL HUMANS ARE DEAD** AND THOSE INCUBATED AT THE INSEMINATION BOARD CANNOT **REPRODUCE**.

ARE YOU **SURE** OF THIS?

NO ONE **FORESAW** THAT THE COMPUTERS WOULD BE SO **AUTONOMOUS** THAT THEY'D EVENTUALLY **USURP** THE POWER OF THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT.

THEY DECIDED WE WERE TOO **IDEALISTIC** TO HAVE ANY VALUE AS RULERS.



SO YOU SEE, YOU'RE NOT **ALONE** IN YOUR FRUSTRATION. I TRIED FOR **YEARS** TO KEEP EVEN A **SMALL PART** OF WHAT WAS ONCE **INSIDE ME**.

I **FAILED**.

IT MY SOUND **CRUEL**, BUT I WANTED TO PUNCH THE OLD MAN IN THE **MOUTH**. THE LAST THING A PESSIMIST **NEEDS** IS ANOTHER PESSIMIST TO TELL HIM HE'S **RIGHT**.

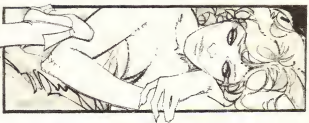


WHAT'S OUR **NEXT** STEP, PETER? IT SEEMS EVERYWHERE WE TURN IS ANOTHER **BLIND ALLEY**.

FIRST WE FIND OUT WHAT **TYPE OF STERILIZATION PROCESS** THE COMPUTERS ARE USING ON US, THEN WE LOOK FOR AN **ANTIDOTE**.



LINDA AND I SPENT A THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE EVENING TRYING TO PROVE THE OLD MAN **WRONG**. THE NEXT MORNING, I WENT TO THE **PSYCHO-LIBRARY** WHERE **ELECTRODES** IMPARTED THE RECORDED INFORMATION DIRECTLY INTO MY **BRAIN CELLS**.



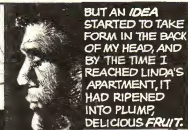
JUST AS I HOPED, THE PROCESS IS A **SIMPLE ... AND REVERSIBLE ... ONE**.



BUT KNOWING **HOW** TO INVERT THE PROCESS WAS ONE THING. **FINDING** THE CHEMICALS NECESSARY TO DO IT WAS **ANOTHER MATTER**. THE LABORATORIES ARE **OFF-LIMITS** TO HUMANS AND THE ONLY **OTHER** PLACE LIKELY TO HAVE WHAT I NEED IS THE **INSEMINATION BOARD**.



I FELT LIKE AN **ANT** TRYING TO RAPE AN **ELEPHANT**.



BUT AN **IDEA** STARTED TO TAKE FORM IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD, AND BY THE TIME I REACHED LINDA'S APARTMENT, IT HAD RIPENED INTO PLUMP, DELICIOUS **FRUIT**.



LINDA, WE'RE GOING TO THE **INSEMINATION BOARD**...



THE INSEMINATION BOARD WAS EVERYTHING I **IMAGINED** IT TO BE AND **WORSE**. A **BIRTH FACTORY**, DESIGNED AS A GROTESQUE **PARODY** OF ANCIENT MATERNITY WARDS, STAFFED BY **MECHANICAL MIDWIVES**.

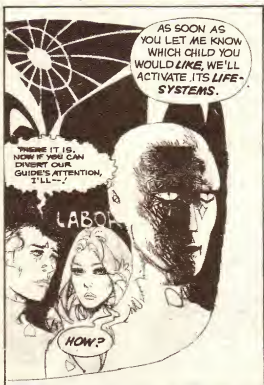


SO YOU WISH TO BE BLESSED WITH A CHILD, EXCELLENT. I PRESUME YOU KNOW THE **PROCEDURES**...



AS PARENTS, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VISIT THE CHILD OF YOUR CHOICE FOR ONE HOUR EACH DAY. SINCE WE ARE BETTER ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR THE CHILD AND GUIDE ITS DEVELOPMENT, WE CONTINUE TO ASSUME THOSE DUTIES.

THROUGH VISITATION, HOWEVER, YOU ARE PERMITTED TO WATCH ITS PROGRESS, AS THOUGH IT WERE YOUR OWN.

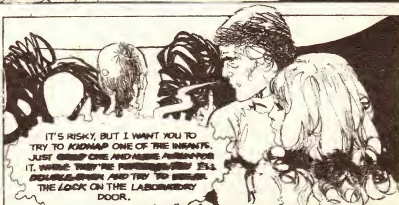


AS SOON AS YOU LET ME KNOW WHICH CHILD YOU WOULD LIKE, WE'LL ACTIVATE ITS LIFE-SYSTEMS.

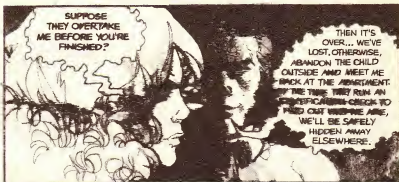
THERE IT IS. NOW IF YOU CAN DIVERT OUR GUIDE'S ATTENTION, I'LL...

LABOR

HOW?



IT'S RISKY, BUT I WANT YOU TO TRY TO KIDNAP ONE OF THE INFANTS. JUST GRAB ONE AND HURRY AWAY WITH IT. WHILE THEY'RE PERFORMING THE BLOOD-SCREEN AND TRY TO BREAK THE LOCK ON THE LABORATORY DOOR.



SUPPOSE THEY OVERTAKE ME BEFORE YOU'RE FINISHED?

THEN IT'S OVER... WE'VE LOST. OTHERWISE, ABANDON THE CHILD OUTSIDE AND MEET ME BACK AT THE APARTMENT. BY THE TIME THEY RUN AN IDENTIFICATION CHECK TO FIND OUT WHO WE ARE, WE'LL BE SAFELY HIDDEN AWAY ELSEWHERE.



HAVE YOU MADE YOUR DECISION YET? WHICH CHILD WILL IT BE?

THAT ONE OVER THERE!

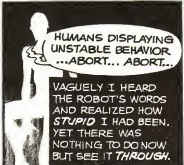


EXCELLENT CHOICE. NOW IF YOU'LL KINDLY FOLLOW ME, WE'LL RUN A QUICK IDENTIFICATION CHECK ON BOTH OF YOU, AND FILL OUT ALL THE NECESSARY PAPERS.

ANY THOUGHTS LOUDLY
SPEAKING
PLEASE
CHARGE

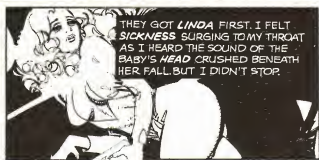


DISRUPTION...
DISRUPTION...
DISRUPTION...



HUMANS DISPLAYING
UNSTABLE BEHAVIOR
...ABORT... ABORT...

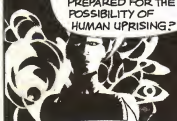
VAGUELY I HEARD
THE ROBOT'S WORDS
AND REALIZED HOW
STUPID I HAD BEEN.
YET THERE WAS
NOTHING TO DO NOW
BUT SEE IT **THROUGH**.



THEY GOT **LINDA** FIRST. I FELT
SICKNESS SURGING TO MY THROAT
AS I HEARD THE SOUND OF THE
BABY'S **HEAD** CRUSHED BENEATH
HER FALL. BUT I DIDN'T STOP.



DID YOU SERIOUSLY
CONSIDER THAT THE
CENTRAL COMPUTER
WOULD BE UN-
PREPARED FOR THE
POSSIBILITY OF
HUMAN UPRISING?

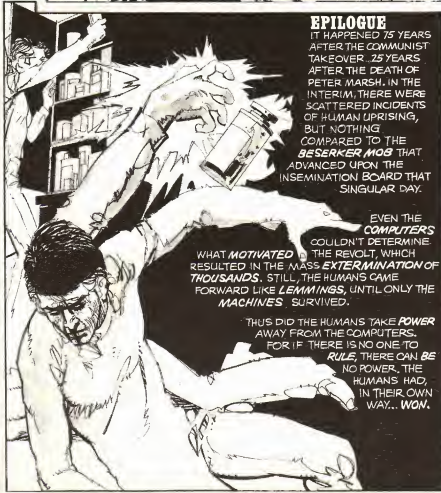


AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE,
TRANSISTORIZED **DETONATORS**
ARE IMPLANTED IN THE **SKULLS** OF
ALL HUMANS BORN HERE... ALL WE
NEED DO IS **ACTIVATE** IT AND
THREAT IS **ENDED**....!

IT WAS **PERFECT**. THE
DETONATORS HAD AUTOMATICALLY
LOOKED INTO OUR **BRAIN WAVE**
FREQUENCY THE MOMENT WE
ENTERED THE ROOM. A VERBAL
COMMAND FROM THE **COMPUTER**
AND---

THE PAIN CAME JUST AS
MY HAND TOUCHED THE
VIAL OF CHEMICALS. IT
LASTED A FRACTION OF A
SECOND, THEN MY **HEAD**
EXPLODED, LITERALLY.

I DIED, STILL BELIEVING I HAD
STRUCK A MORAL VICTORY
FOR MANKIND.



EPILOGUE

IT HAPPENED **75 YEARS**
AFTER THE COMMUNIST
TAKEOVER. **25 YEARS**
AFTER THE DEATH OF
PETER MARSH. IN THE
INTERIM, THERE WERE
SCATTERED INCIDENTS
OF HUMAN UPRISING,
BUT NOTHING
COMPARED TO THE
BESERKER MOB THAT
ADVANCED UPON THE
INSEMINATION BOARD THAT
SINGULAR DAY.

EVEN THE
COMPUTERS
COULDN'T DETERMINE


WHAT **MOTIVATED** THE REVOLT, WHICH
RESULTED IN THE MASS **EXTERMINATION** OF
THOUSANDS. STILL, THE HUMANS CAME
FORWARD LIKE **LEMMINGS**, UNTIL ONLY THE
MACHINES SURVIVED.

THIS DID THE HUMANS TAKE **POWER**
AWAY FROM THE COMPUTERS.
FOR IF THERE IS NO ONE TO
RULE, THERE CAN BE
NO POWER. THE
HUMANS HAD,
IN THEIR OWN
WAY... **WON**.

uncle WIGGLY's MAGIC BOX

UNCLE WIGGLY. YOU REMEMBER HIM, ALIAS CHARLES ULYSSES FARLEY, AUTHOR OF THOSE UNFORGETTABLE CHILDREN'S CLASSICS. "LARRY LEMMING'S MARCH TO THE SEA," "THE ADVENTURES OF OOGIE FINGER," AND THE EVER POPULAR "DUCKING OF CHICKEN LITTLE!"

ONE OF FARLEY'S EARLY PUBLISHERS DUBBED HIM WITH THE SICKENINGLY SWEET "UNCLE WIGGLY," SINCE HE FELT THAT THE NAME **CHUCK U. FARLEY** WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO GRACE THE COVERS OF **CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**.



BEFORE THEY CARTED HIM TO HIS **GRAVE**, UNCLE WIGGLY HAD WRITTEN MORE THAN A **HUNDRED** TOMES, INFLUENCING THREE GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN.

IT INFLUENCED THEM SO MUCH, THAT NOT **ONE** OF THE LITTLE SNOTS SHOWED UP AT WIGGLY'S **FUNERAL**!

BESIDES HIS CREDITORS, THERE WERE ONLY **SIX** OTHERS PRESENT TO PAY THEIR LAST RESPECTS...WIGGLY'S PUBLISHER, JAMES WEBBER, HIS SECRETARY, NAOMI NUTBUSTLE, AND FOUR RUMMY PALL-BEARERS THE MORTICIAN HAD HIRED FOR A FIFTH OF RIPPLE APIECE.

HE WAS WHAT YOU'D CALL YOUR EVERYDAY LITERARY HACK!

YOU WERE THE REAL GENIUS BEHIND HIS BOOKS, NAOMI!



YOU AND I CAN DO JUST AS WELL WITHOUT HIM, MY DEAR!

YET, JUST BECAUSE THEY WERE PUTTING HIM IN HIS GRAVE, DIDN'T MEAN THAT THE WORLD WAS SO EASILY **RID** OF UNCLE WIGGLY...

YOU THINK HE HEARD ME?



FOR **UNCLE WIGGLY** WASN'T ABOUT TO GO OUT LYING DOWN!



T-THAT **SCREAM**...
H-HE'S **MOVING** IN THERE!
HE'S **ALIVE**!

EITHER THAT OR THEY DON'T CALL HIM **UNCLE WIGGLY** FOR NOTHING!

THAT'S IT!
I'M **SWEARING** OFF!

THERE CAME A **STIRRING** FROM WITHIN UNCLE WIGGLY'S COFFIN. AND THEN, TO THE HORROR OF ALL PRESENT, A **MUFFLED VOICE** CRACKED THE ICY SILENCE!

ALL RIGHT! WHO'S THE CLOWN THAT LOCKED ME IN THIS **SARDINE CAN**?

AAAAAAAH!!



OF ALL THOSE PRESENT, NAOMI NUTBUSTLE WAS PERHAPS MORE HORRIFIED THAN THE REST. SHE HAD BEEN THERE WHEN THE DOCTORS PROCLAIMED UNCLE WIGGLY DEAD.



SHE HAD WATCHED AS THE MORTICIAN DRAINED THE **BODY FLUIDS** FROM WIGGLY'S COLD-STILLED FORM. SHE HAD SEEN THE GREEN **EMBALMING LIQUID** TRICKLE OUT OF THE TUBES AND INTO HIS VEINS.

SHE HAD EVEN QUIETLY RESIGNED HERSELF TO SPENDING HER REMAINING DAYS **WITHOUT** HER LIFE-LONG FRIEND AND COMPANION, UNCLE WIGGLY.



YET **WIGGLY** HAD NOT RESIGNED HIMSELF TO **DEATH!**

UNCLE WIGGLY HAD ONCE WRITTEN A **BOOK** ABOUT **DEATH**... WELL, NOT REALLY ABOUT **DEATH**. HIS PUBLISHER WOULD NEVER HAVE ALLOWED SUCH A CONTROVERSIAL TOPIC WITHIN THE PAGES OF A CHILDREN'S PUBLICATION. IT WAS MORE A MORALISTIC TALE ABOUT A BOY WHO **DIED**.



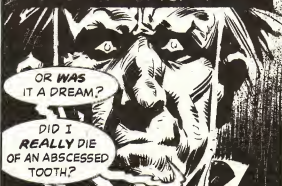
IN HIS STORY, THE CHILD SIMPLY **REFUSED** TO **ACCEPT** HIS DEMISE. AND THEREFORE, HE KEPT RIGHT ON **LIVING**.



AFTER HE'D FINISHED THE BOOK, WIGGLY HAD OFFHANDLY COMMENTED TO MRS. NUTBUSTLE THAT WHEN **HE** DIED, HE WAS GOING TO **REFUSE** TO **ACCEPT** **DEATH**, ALSO.

THAT WAY, WIGGLY REASONED, **DEATH** COULDN'T **HARM** HIM... AND HE WOULD LIVE FOREVER! CHILDISHLY SIMPLE.

IT WAS GREAT IN THEORY, BUT WIGGLY HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING IF IT **WORKED** UNTIL HE HAD ACTUALLY **TRIED** IT!



NOW THAT HE **WAS** TRYING IT... HE **STILL** WASN'T SURE IF IT **WORKED!**

MIND OVER MATTER. DETERMINATION. CONVICTION.
LABEL IT WHAT YOU WILL. THE SIMPLE TRUTH OF
THE MATTER IS THAT UNCLE WIGGLY JUST
STOOD UP IN HIS COFFIN...



... AND CALMLY WALKED AWAY FROM **DEATH!**

OF COURSE, HE DID **STUMBLE** A WEE BIT IN THE
PROCESS!



H-HE'S
FALLING!
HELP HIM!

YOU HELP HIM! I
AIN'T GOIN' **NEAR NO**
HAINT!

MR. FARLEY!
ARE YOU
ALRIGHT,
SIR?

I CAN USE A
LITTLE **SCOTCH** FOR
THIS THROBBING
TOOTH...!

OTHER THAN THAT,
I AIN'T FELT THIS GOOD
SINCE THE DAY I
DIED!

OH, CHARLES!
CHARLES! YOU'RE
ALIVE!



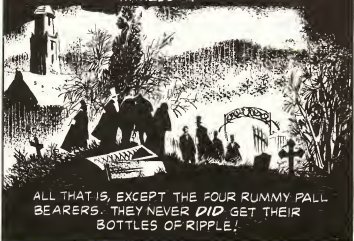
I WAS SO WORRIED
WHEN YOU DIDN'T COME HOME
FROM THE **DENTIST!**

CAN WE GO
HOME NOW, NAOMI?
I FEEL A **STORY**
COMING ON!

OF COURSE,
CHARLES. WHATEVER
YOU **WANT!**



YES SIR, THERE WAS A **MIRACLE** THE DAY THEY
TRIED TO BURY UNCLE WIGGLY. A HAPPY MIRACLE
FOR ALL WHO WERE THERE AT THE CEMETERY TO
WITNESS IT!



ALL THAT IS, EXCEPT THE FOUR RUMMY PALL
BEARERS. THEY NEVER **DID** GET THEIR
BOTTLES OF **RIPPLE!**

UNCLE WIGGLY HADN'T BEEN HOME AN HOUR BEFORE THE DOCTOR LOOKED HIM OVER **THOROUGHLY**.

DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP, MRS. NUTBUSTLE. HE'S DEAD...**HE** JUST DOESN'T KNOW IT YET!

THANK YOU, DOCTOR! I'LL TRY AND **CONVINCE** HIM!

AFTER THAT, WIGGLY JUST RESUMED HIS LIFE WHERE HE'D LEFT OFF. FAITHFUL MRS. NUTBUSTLE WAS EVER AT HIS SIDE, TRANSCRIBING THE BOOKS WIGGLY RATTLED OFF...SENDING THEM TO HIS PUBLISHER WHO JUST **KNEW** THAT AT ANY DAY, WIGGLY WOULD KEEL OVER AND TOPPLE INTO THE GRAVE THAT AWAITED HIM WITH HUNGRY MAW!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, CHARLES. HOW CAN YOU LIVE WITH ALL THAT **EMBALMING FLUID** IN YOUR VEINS?

PLAIN CUSSEDNESS, NAOMI! I **REFUSE** TO LET A SIMPLE THING LIKE **DEATH** KEEP ME DOWN!

ALTHOUGH I DO CONFESS...THAT DURN FLUID **ITCHES** A MIGHT!

MRS. NUTBUSTLE WAS **EVER** CONCERNED OVER WIGGLY. SHE MOTHERED HIM AS IF HE WERE HER SOLE, SICKLY CHILD!

HIS PAIN WAS **HER** PAIN. AND WHEN, ONLY SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER HIS FUNERAL, WIGGLY **COLLAPSED** IN A STUPOR OF DIZZINESS, IT WAS MRS. NUTBUSTLE WHO FELT THE **HURT** AND THE **FEAR** MORE THAN HE!

CHARLES!

OH... HEAD'S SPINNING! H-HOPE THAT DANGLED **TOOTH** ISN'T KICKING UP AGAIN!

UP TO BED WITH YOU, CHARLES! YOU'VE BEEN WORKING **TOO** LONG AND **TOO** HARD FOR A MAN IN YOUR CONDITION!

AND WHAT CONDITION IS **THAT**, NAOMI?

DEAD!



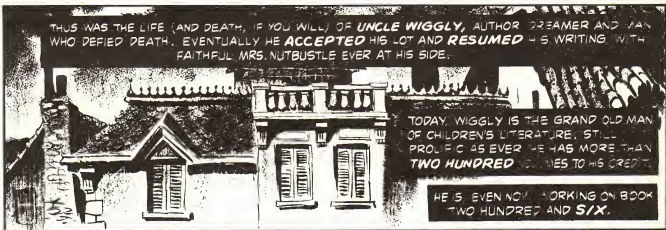


CHARLES, YOU **MUST** STOP FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF. YOU SIMPLY **HAVE** TO ACCEPT YOUR FATE AND GET **ON** WITH LIFE!



I'LL **LEAVE** YOU FOR NOW, CHARLES. BUT I'LL BE BACK LATER.

MAKE SURE YOU'RE READY TO BEGIN YOUR NEW **BOOK** THEN.



THIS WAS THE LIFE (AND DEATH, IF YOU WILL) OF **UNCLE WIGGLY**, AUTHOR, DREAMER AND MAN WHO DEFIED DEATH. EVENTUALLY HE **ACCEPTED** HIS LOT AND **RESUMED** HIS WRITING WITH FAITHFUL MRS. NUTBUSTLE EVER AT HIS SIDE.

TODAY, WIGGLY IS THE GRAND OLD MAN OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE. STILL PROLIFIC AS EVER HE HAS MORE THAN **TWO HUNDRED** VOLUMES TO HIS CREDIT.

HE IS EVEN NOW WORKING ON BOOK TWO HUNDRED AND **SIX**.



...ALBERT AARDVARK'S HEART PUMPED INSANELY AS HE **RACED** TO THE MAGIC CUBE. HE SLID. **SCREAMED**.

SOMEWHAT OF A RECLUSE, **UNCLE WIGGLY** HAS SEEN **NO ONE** EXCEPT MRS. NUTBUSTLE IN THE LAST THIRTY-FIVE YEARS.



AND WHEN THE DUST CLEARED, ALBERT WAS **GRIPPING** THE BOX WITH BOTH HANDS, HIS EYES CLENCHED TIGHTLY SHUT, EVERY NERVE IN HIS BODY STRAINING...CONCENTRATING... ON SUMMONING THE CUBE'S **MAGIC**.

HE **REFUSES** TO SPEAK TO HIS PUBLISHER, HAVING MRS. NUTBUSTLE CONDUCT ALL OF HIS BUSINESS DEALINGS.



THE AIR SNAPPED...CRACKLED... POPPED ABOUT HIM. AND WHEN ALBERT LOOKED UP, HE SAW THAT THE CUBE'S MAGIC WAS **REAL!**

A THIRTY-FIVE FOOT **GENE** TOWERED OVER HIM, READY TO DO HIS EVERY BIDDING.

AND MORE THAN ONCE, HE HAS **TURNED AWAY** A STRAGGLING FAN, AUTOGRAPH HUNTER OR CURIOUS MEMBER OF THE PRESS WISHING AN INTERVIEW WITH THE "ECCENTRIC AUTHOR."

BUT ALBERT'S MIND
TURNED INTO A SOGGY
SCRAMBLED EGG. HE
COULDN'T **THINK**. HE
DIDN'T KNOW **WHAT** TO
ASK OF THE GENIE.

IN THE NEXT SECOND,
IT DIDN'T MATTER ANYWAY...
FOR THE GENIE TURNED,
SCRATCHED HIS BALDING
PATE IN WONDERMENT, AND
WALKED SLOWLY INTO THE
SUNSET...CRUNCHING POOR
ALBERT INTO AARDVARK
OATMEAL!

AND THE **MORAL** OF
THE STORY: ONE DAY, YOU TOO,
WILL BE OATMEAL, IF YOU
MESS WITH SOMETHING YOU
DON'T UNDERSTAND!



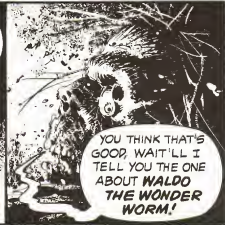
WIGGLY HASN'T LEFT HIS BED IN ALL THOSE YEARS
SINCE HIS **DEATH**. HE SIMPLY HAS HAD NO **NEED**
TO. OUTSIDE, AN EMPTY **GRAVE** YET WAITS SOME-
WHERE, YEARNING FOR THE BODY OF CHARLES
ULYSSES FARLEY...ALIAS **UNCLE WIGGLY**.

BUT THE OLD MAN IS **STUBBORN**. HE STANDS
FIRM...REFUSING TO RELEASE HIS STRANGLE-
HOLD ON **LIFE!**

BESIDES, UNCLE WIGGLY PROFESSSES, HE'S GOT
ANOTHER **TWO HUNDRED** BOOKS IN HIM!



OH, CHARLES...
WHAT A
WONDERFUL
STORY!



YOU THINK THAT'S
GOOD, WAIT'LL I
TELL YOU THE ONE
ABOUT **WALDO**
THE WONDER
WORM!

PROLOGUE



"JACK AN' JILL
WENT UP THE HILL
TO FETCH A GLASS OF ALE.
THE RIPPER CAME DOWN
WITH HALF A CROWN.
THEY CARRIED JILL HOME IN A PAIL."



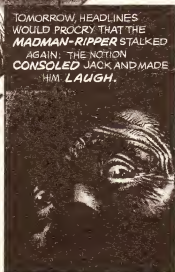
INNARDS OUTWARD, A SICK
FANTASY SMEARED RED ON A
COBBLESTONE CANVAS. HER WOMAN
BLOOD PUMPED AND SPILLED IN
PULSATING PATTERNS DOWN FILTHY
GUTTERS... AND THE RIPPER SKULLED
AWAY.

FAILURE WASHED HIM LIKE A FEVER,
PURGING CONFIDENCE EVEN AS IT
FILLED HIM WITH **CONFUSION** AND
SHAME. HE RAN UNTIL HIS LUNGS'D
FILLED WITH **EXHAUSTION**...



...THEN HE **RESTED**, AMONG THE
RATS, THE GARBAGE, AND THE DARK-
NESS.

TOMORROW, HEADLINES
WOULD PROCLAIM THAT THE
MADMAN-RIPPER STALKED
AGAIN. THE NOTION
CONSOLED JACK AND MADE
HIM **LAUGH**.



HE DIDN'T KILL OUT OF **MADNESS**
NOR EVEN HATE, ALTHOUGH HE **DID**
HATE THOSE WOMEN. THEY'D BROUGHT
HIM TO THE HEIGHT OF ANTICIPATION,
THEN LET HIM **FREEFALL** IN HIS
OWN **DISAPPOINTMENT**.

BUT THAT WASN'T WHY THEY HAD TO
DIE.

THEY DIED BECAUSE HE HAD AN
OBLIGATION TO END THEIR WICKED
EXISTENCE. THEY WERE EVIL...
AMORAL... AND IT WAS **HIS** FAULT.
HE WAS ONLY THANKFUL HE HAD THE
OPPORTUNITY TO **RECTIFY** HIS
MISTAKES.

HE TOOK A LONG BREATH AND
WALKED HOME, DETERMINED THAT
TOMORROW HE WOULD **SUCCEED**.



I AM THE **TRASH COLLECTOR** IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN... THE GUY WHO PICKS UP THE **APPLE CORES** WHEN ADAM AND EVE HAVE FINISHED TASTING THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT. AT LEAST I **FEEL** THAT WAY SOMETIMES. TRUTH IS, I'M A PRIVATE **DETECTIVE**... CONSULTING **CRIMINOLOGIST**, AS IT SAYS ON MY DOOR. I MAY NOT HAVE THE FLAIR OF THAT **HOLMES** CHAP OVER ON **BAKER STREET**, BUT I GET ALONG NICELY, THANK YOU.



HOW LONG SINCE YOUR SISTER DISAPPEARED, MISS LINDSTROM?

TWO WEEKS, I THINK.



DID YOU GO TO THE **POLICE**?

NO, MARIA'S VERY **INDEPENDENT!** GIRL **WANTON** MIGHT BE A BETTER WORD. IF SOME OF HER ACTIVITIES WERE MADE **PUBLIC**, THE FAMILY REPUTATION WOULD BE **RUINED**.



SO IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR HER TO DISAPPEAR IN MALE COMPANY?

NOT AT ALL. BUT SHE **TIRES** OF THEM VERY **QUICKLY**. NEITHER **MONEY** NOR **GOOD LOOKS** COULD MAKE HER STAY WITH A MAN **THIS** LONG.

WHITECHAPEL IS A **DECENT** ENOUGH SORT OF PLACE, I SUPPOSE. AT TIMES, IT REMINDS ME OF AN AGING **HOOKER**... A BIT TOO **BOISTEROUS**, A BIT TOO **GAUDY**, BUT STILL **HEALTHY** AND **SPIRITED** ENOUGH TO BE ATTRACTIVE.



LATELY THOUGH, THE **HOOKERS** HAVEN'T **BEEN** AGING. SINCE THIS **JACK THE RIPPER** CHARACTER HIT THE STREETS, THEY'VE BEEN **DYING** AWFULLY **YOUNG**.



WHEN DID YOU **SEE** HER LAST?

JUST BEFORE SHE **VANISHED**. SHE SEEMED **NERVOUS**... SAID IF IT KEPT UP SHE WOULD SEE A **DOCTOR**.



WAS SHE **ILL**?

NO, I THINK SHE WAS WITH **CHILD**.

PREGNANT?!!



REALLY... MUST YOU BE SO **CRUDE**? ANYWAY, **YES**. THAT'S WHY I'M SO AFRAID SHE'S DONE SOMETHING **RASH!**

LIKE AN **ABORTION**?

WHITECHAPEL

IT WASN'T THE SORT OF CASE THAT WARMED MY COCKLES. JACQUI LINDSTROM WAS SO **DEMURE** SHE MADE THE **VIRGIN MARY** SEEM LIKE **MOLL FLANDERS**. I DIDN'T **BLAME** MARIA FOR RUNNING AWAY WITH A SISTER **JACQUI**, I'D HAVE DONE THE **SAME THING**.



OF COURSE, I WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN **PREGNANT** AFTERWARDS.

DR. ERNEST F. KANIN
SURGEON



BUT HAVING NOTHING **BETTER** TO DO AND NEEDING THE **MONEY**, I MADE A ROUTINE CHECK OF THE **DOCTORS** IN WHITECHAPEL... **ONE** IN PARTICULAR CAUGHT MY **INTEREST...**

RUMOR HAD IT THAT **ERNEST F. KANIN** HAD BEEN A PROMINENT **SURGEON** BACK IN THE **BALKAN COUNTRIES** UNTIL A MEDICAL BOARD ACCUSED HIM OF **UNETHICAL PRACTICES**.



THE SCANDAL CAUSED SUCH AN **UPROAR**, HE HAD TO **LEAVE** THE VILLAGE FOR HIS OWN **SAFETY**.

KANIN LOOKED LIKE AN EMACIATED PUPPET... THIN, A LITTLE **LOOSE** AROUND THE JOINTS AND NOT FULLY IN CONTROL OF HIS **FACULTIES**.

DR.
KANIN,
HAVE YOU
EVER SEEN
THIS WOMAN
BEFORE?



NO.

ARE YOU
SURE? WE
BELIEVE SHE
WAS **PREGNANT**,
SHE MAY HAVE
COME TO YOU
FOR **HELP**.



NO.

FOR AN EDUCATED MAN, HE SURE HAD A **LIMITED** VOCABULARY. HE **SPOKE** HIS TIRED DIALOGUE WITH ALL THE PERSONALITY OF A **COMATOSE FORCUPINE**.

NOT EVEN
A **SLIGHT**
POSSIBILITY?



I AM A **SURGEON**, NOT AN **OBSTETRICIAN**. NOW IF YOU'LL **EXCUSE ME --!**

THERE WAS DEFINITELY SOMETHING **LACKING** IN KANIN'S BEDSIDE MANNER. I TOOK TO THE **SHADOWS** AND **WAITED**.



IT WASN'T FIVE MINUTES LATER THAT HE CAME OUT. I KNEW MY **INSTINCTS** HAD BEEN **RIGHT**.

SINCE WHEN DOES A **SURGEON** MAKE **HOUSE CALLS?**

HE WALKED AS IF HE WERE **BAREFOOT** ON A STREET PAVED WITH **RED-HOT NAILS**, NEVER BREAKING PACE UNTIL HE CAME TO ST. MARGARET'S CHARITY HOME, A **KENNEL** FOR STRAY HUMAN **ANIMALS**.

ST. MARGARET CHARITY CLINIC



THANK YOU FOR COMING, DOCTOR. HER CONDITION HAS GROWN **CRITICAL**.



IS EVERYTHING READY FOR THE **OPERATION**?

YES, DR. KANIN.

TOWARD THE REAR OF THE BUILDING, I FOUND AN OPEN WINDOW...



PARDON, MA'AM, HOPE YOU'RE FEELING BETTER TODAY!

I WANDERED UNSEEN THROUGH A MAZE OF CORRIDORS... WALKING SOFTLY AND WISHING I CARRIED A BIG STICK... I STOPPED AS I HEARD A FAMILIAR VOICE.

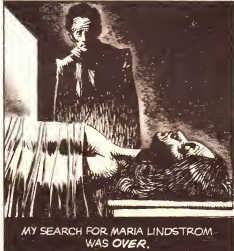


THERE'S NOTHING MORE YOU CAN DO, DOCTOR?

NO, THE PATIENT IS **DEAD**.



I WAITED UNTIL THEY HAD DISAPPEARED DOWN THE OTHER END OF THE CORRIDOR, THEN I ENTERED THE ROOM FROM WHICH THEY'D JUST EMERGED.



MY SEARCH FOR MARIA LINDSTROM WAS **OVER**.

I WAS DISAPPOINTED, IT WAS BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE THIS WAS A LEGITIMATE **EMERGENCY** CALL. ON THE OTHER HAND KANIN WASN'T THE TYPE TO PATCH UP DERELICTS, **GRATIS**. I DECIDED TO DO SOME **FURTHER** INVESTIGATING.

THE PROSPECT OF BREAKING THE NEWS TO JACQUI WAS ABOUT AS **APPEALING** AS A PLATEFUL OF **SPIDER-EGGS**, BUT I HAD TO JUSTIFY MY FEE **SOMEHOW...** THE **TRUTH** SEEMED AS GOOD A WAY AS ANY.

I ASKED HER TO MEET ME AT THE **WIDOW'S PEAK**. THE ATMOSPHERE THERE WAS **BLUNT AND DIRECT**, MATCHING MY MOOD.

HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

MARIA'S DEAD.

ABORTION'S STILL A **RISKY** AFFAIR. IT'D BE BETTER FOR EVERYONE CONCERNED IF I LEFT IT AT **THAT**.

SO, LITTLE SISTER... WHORING AROUND LIKE THE **REST** OF US, ARE YOU? IT'S ABOUT **TIME!** THE **VESTAL VIRGIN** ACT WAS GETTING TO BE A **BORE**.

I UNDERSTAND... THE **PUBLICITY**. VERY WELL, I-- WHAT'S **W-WRONG?**

I STOPPED IN- **MID-SWALLOW**. THE ALE HARDENED LIKE **PLASTER** IN MY THROAT.

NOTHING **PERSONAL**, BUT MARIA LINDSTROM WAS THE **LAST** PERSON I WANTED TO SEE AT THAT MOMENT. SHE WAS MAKING ME LOOK LIKE A **LIAR** IN FRONT OF MY CLIENT, AND THAT'S BAD FOR **BUSINESS**.

'EY, WENCH, HOW'D YOU LIKE AN OLD SEA DOG TO SHOW YOU HIS **BONES?** HAH...

AAAAARGH! MY EYES!

SMASH!

THAT'S ALL IT TOOK, AT THE FIRST SOUND OF **VIOLENCE** THOSE CRUSTY OLD SHIPRUNNERS ROSE TO THE OCCASION, TURNING THE SIMPLE INCIDENT INTO A **FREE-FOR-ALL**.

THEY DIDN'T KNOW **WHO** THEY WERE HITTING, NOR **WHY**.

NOR DID THEY **CARE** MUCH. IT WAS TIME TO GO INTO MY **COCKROACH** ACT... I SCURRIED ACROSS THE FLOOR, SEARCHING FOR SOME SIGN OF MARIA. THERE WAS **NONE**.

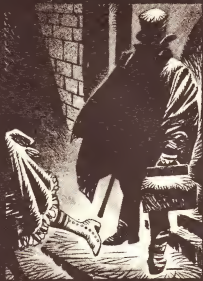
SOMETHING ABOUT MARIA WAS CHANGED. JACQUI TOLD ME SHE WAS A LITTLE **WILD**, BUT THE **EVIL** AND **CRUELTY** IN HER EYES WAS FAR **BEYOND** THAT.



"LITTLE JACK HORNER
HID IN A CORNER
WATCHING THE GIRLS GO BY
HE STUCK IN HIS DARTS
AND PULLED OUT THEIR HEARTS
AND SAID 'WHAT A GOOD BOY AM I'."

HER SHRILL **SCREAM** BECAME
A SUDDEN GEYSER OF **BLOOD**
THAT SPEWED FROM A TORN
THROAT. HER HANDS WENT
TO HER **BODY**, TRYING
FUTILELY TO CONTAIN THE
ORGANS THAT THREATENED
TO SPILL TO THE PAVEMENT.

THE RIPPER'S BLADE
SLASHED AND SLICED,
LIKE AN EAGER CHILD
TEARING OPEN A
BIRTHDAY PACKAGE
TO FIND OUT WHAT'S
INSIDE.



HE HAD FAILED **AGAIN**.
HE KNEW. BUT THIS
TIME HE WAS NOT
ASHAMED.

HE KNEW, DEEP DOWN,
THAT THIS WOULD BE
HIS LAST FAILURE...
HIS LAST **MISTAKE**...!

THE NEXT TIME HE
WOULD GET IT **RIGHT**!



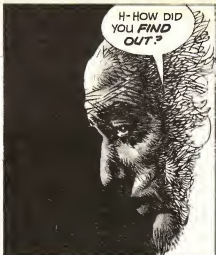
THE SCREAM WAS LIKE
A COLD WIND FROM
HELL. I RACED THROUGH
THE NETWORK OF
ALLEYWAYS, JUMPING
FENCES AND KICKING
TOMCATS OUT OF WAY,
EVEN THOUGH I **KNEW**
I WOULD BE **TOO LATE**.

WHEN I FINALLY CAME UPON
THE BLOOD-SOAKED **SCRAPS**
OF MARIA LINDSTROM, I GOT
ANOTHER TASTE OF LAST
WEEK'S **LUNCH**.

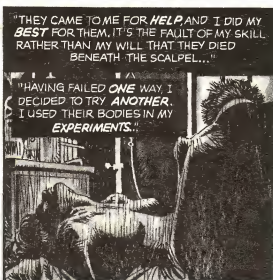
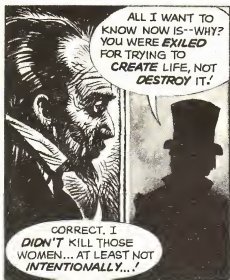
I LEARNED **TWO THINGS**
ABOUT JACK THE RIPPER.
THAT NIGHT. ONE WAS
THAT HE INDEED LIVED
UP TO HIS **LEGEND**...

...THE OTHER WAS HIS
IDENTITY.



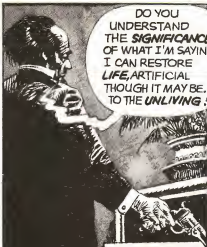


I ASSURED HIM IT WASN'T **DIFFICULT**. THE CUFF-LINK WAS **ENGRAVED** WITH THE ADDRESS OF THE **JEWELER**... AN ADDRESS IN **KLEINSTADT**... IN THE **BALKANS**. STILL, IT TOOK THE MONOGRAMMED 'F' TO MAKE ME REALIZE THAT **ERNEST F. KANIN** WAS MERELY AN **ANAGRAM**!



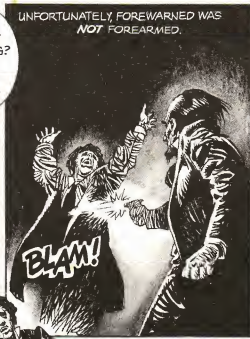
"I INJECTED THEM WITH THE SERUM I'D CREATED AND WAITED LONG, INTOLERABLY TENSE **MOMENTS**. THEN... A SLIGHT FLUTTER OF THE EYES, A BARELY PERCEPTIBLE HEAVE OF THE CHEST. THEY **LIVED**! I WAS **ECSTATIC**! I OBSERVED THEIR **PROGRESS** A FEW DAYS, THEN ALLOWED THEM TO GO **HOME**."





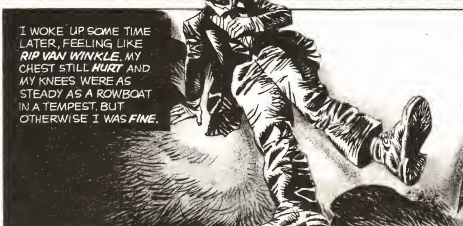
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE **SIGNIFICANCE** OF WHAT I'M SAYING? I CAN RESTORE **LIFE**, ARTIFICIAL THOUGH IT MAY BE... TO THE **UNLIVING**!

UNFORTUNATELY, FOREWARNED WAS **NOT** FOREARMED.




I SAW HIS HAND **MOVE** AND KNEW INSTINCTIVELY WHAT HE WAS **REACHING** FOR. I WAS ABOUT TO GET A FIRST-HAND **DEMONSTRATION** OF HIS LATEST SCIENTIFIC **DISCOVERY**.


BLAM!



I WOKE UP SOME TIME LATER, FEELING LIKE **RIP VAN WINKLE**. MY CHEST STILL **HURT** AND MY KNEES WERE AS STEADY AS A ROWBOAT IN A TEMPEST, BUT OTHERWISE I WAS **FINE**.



DR. FRANKENSTEIN GLARED AT ME SMUGLY. I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER TO THANK HIM OR WIPE THAT SILLY 'I-TOLD-YOU-SO' SMIRK OFF HIS FACE.



YOU SHOULD BE PROUD, YOU'RE MY **FIRST** UNQUALIFIED **SUCCESS**!

THRILLS. NOW WHAT?

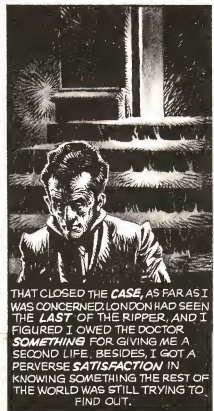


YOU'RE FREE TO GO. I'LL CHECK UP ON YOUR **PROGRESS** FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT MY WORK IS **FINISHED**.

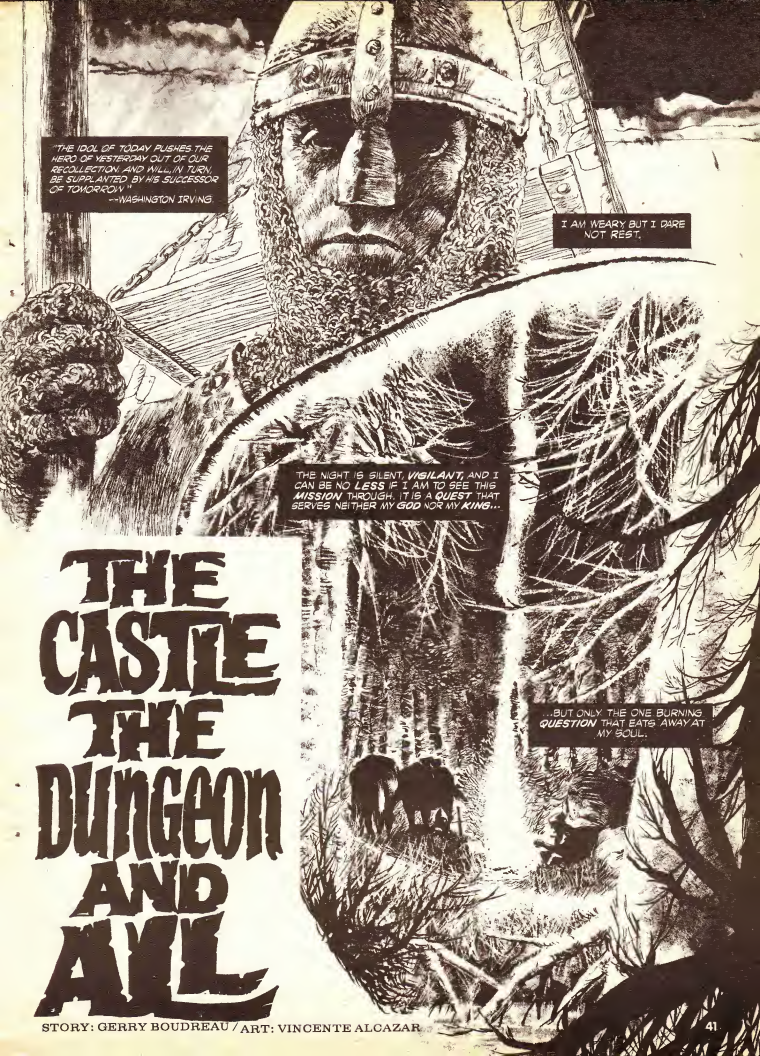
AREN'T YOU AFRAID I'LL RUN TO THE **YARD**?

WHO'D BELIEVE YOU?

HE HAD A **POINT** THERE.



THAT CLOSED THE **CASE**, AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED. LONDON HAD SEEN THE **LAST** OF THE RIPPER, AND I FIGURED I OWED THE DOCTOR **SOMETHING** FOR GIVING ME A SECOND LIFE. BESIDES, I GOT A PERVERSE **SATISFACTION** IN KNOWING SOMETHING THE REST OF THE WORLD WAS STILL TRYING TO FIND OUT.



THE IDOL OF TODAY PUSHES THE
HERO OF YESTERDAY OUT OF OUR
RECOLLECTION, AND WILL, IN TURN,
BE SUPPLANTED BY HIS SUCCESSOR
OF TOMORROW.

--WASHINGTON IRVING

I AM WEARY BUT I DARE
NOT REST.

THE NIGHT IS SILENT, VIGILANT, AND I
CAN BE NO LESS IF I AM TO SEE THIS
MISSION THROUGH. IT IS A QUEST THAT
SERVES NEITHER MY GOD NOR MY KING...

...BUT ONLY THE ONE BURNING
QUESTION THAT EATS AWAY AT
MY SOUL.

THE CASTLE THE DUNGEON AND ALL

STORY: GERRY BOUDREAU / ART: VINCENTE ALCAZAR

IF THE DARKNESS SHIELDS ME FROM MY ENEMIES, IT ALSO SHIELDS THEM FROM MY SIGHT. I KNOW THEY ARE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE... **ROBBERS, MURDERERS, BARBARIANS.**

...A QUEST THAT SHALL LEAD ME TO THE VALLEY OF MYSTERY, WHERE NEITHER WARRIOR NOR PRIEST HATH TREAD BEFORE. IT IS SPOKEN OF IN THE LEGENDS OF MY PEOPLE.

THE ROAD IS RIDDEN WITH THEM, BUT I CANNOT LET THEM DETER ME FROM MY QUEST...

SOME SAY IT IS HEAVEN, SOME SAY IT IS HELL, BUT WHICHEVER IT MAY BE, NO ONE HAS EVER VENTURED THERE OR RETURNED.

I SHALL BE THE FIRST.

ANOTHER NIGHT COMES, AND OUR DESTINATION NOW LIES ONE FULL DAY AHEAD OF US. I AM TEMPTED TO RIDE ON, BUT THE DANGERS OF THE ROAD ARE MANY, AND MY SQUIRE HAS ADVISED THAT WE REST.

EVEN NOW I SENSE SOMETHING UNSEEN IN THE DARKNESS.

PERHAPS IN THE GLOW OF FIRELIGHT,
THE UNSEEN...



...SHALL BECOME *SEEN*!



ROBBERS!

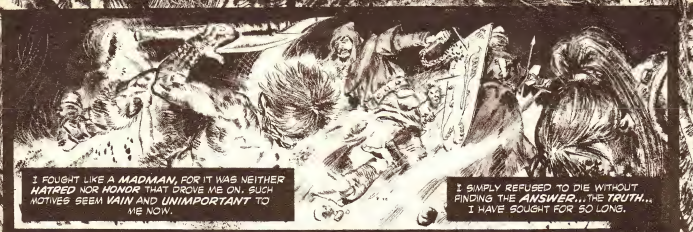


SO MANY OF THEM...HOW
COULD THEY HAVE ADVANCED SO
SILENTLY? TRULY THEY ARE THE
MARSH PHANTOMS WE
WERE WARNED ABOUT!

NO, MY
LIEGE.




PHANTOMS OR
NOT, THESE VILLAINS
CAN BLEED...AND
MUCH OF THEIR BLOOD
SHALL BE SHED BEFORE
THEY STEAL ONE HORSE
OR ONE GOLD COIN
FROM OUR ROUCHES!



I FOUGHT LIKE A MADMAN, FOR IT WAS NEITHER HATRED NOR HONOR THAT DROVE ME ON. SUCH MOTIVES SEEM VAIN AND UNIMPORTANT TO ME NOW.

I SIMPLY REFUSED TO DIE WITHOUT FINDING THE ANSWER...THE TRUTH... I HAVE SOUGHT FOR SO LONG.

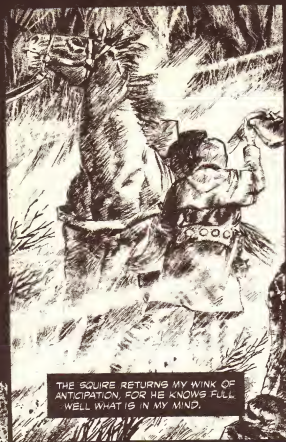


THE FIRE IS SPREADING, MY LEIGE! WE'VE GOT TO STOP IT, BEFORE IT REACHES...



...THE HORSES!!

THE SACKS OF GOLD IN THE SADDLEBAGS...PERHAPS IT IS BEST WE GIVE THESE KNAVES WHAT THEY CAME FOR!



THE SQUIRE RETURNS MY WINK OF ANTICIPATION. FOR HE KNOWS FULL WELL WHAT IS IN MY MIND.

FOR I ASKED JOHN TREMAYNE TO ACCOMPANY ME NOT FOR HIS SKILLS AS A **SQUIRE...**



...BUT FOR HIS SKILLS AS...




...A **MAGICIAN!**

THE GREEDY ROBBERS **POUNCE**, AS I KNEW THEY WOULD, UPON THE TINY SACKCLOTHS OF GOLD, TEARING EACH OTHERS' THROATS FOR THE CHANCE TO CLAIM ANOTHER **COIN**.

BUT THERE ARE NO GOLD COINS TO BE FOUND.

JOHN TREMAYNE MIXES HIS MAGICAL POWDERS **WELL**.



BUT IN THE EXCITEMENT OF THE MOMENT, JOHN FAILED TO DETECT A SLIGHT MOVEMENT IN THE DARKNESS BEHIND HIM.

COWARD!
WHEN STRENGTH
FAILS, YOU RESORT
TO CHEAP **DECEP-**
TION! WELL, TURN,
COWARDS... FOR EVEN
TRICKERY CAN'T
SAVE YOU NOW!
TURN...AND
DIE!

I STARTED TO
SHOUT, BUT AS I
SAW JOHN TRE-
MAYNE'S FACE
TWIST WITH THE
AGONY OF SEVEN
INCHES OF **DEATH**
IMBEDDED IN
HIS BACK...

...I KNEW IT WAS ALREADY
TOO LATE.

BUT AT LEAST HE HAD THE SATIS-
FACTION OF SEEING HIS SLAYER
INCINERATED ALIVE IN A BURST
OF **MYSTICAL FLAME!**

AND STANDING BY THE ONLY PROPER
HEADSTONE I COULD GIVE HIM, I
THOUGHT BACK OVER THE MANY **YEARS**
WE HAD SPENT TOGETHER...

...AND A FRIENDSHIP THAT
BEGAN WHEN WE WERE
BOTH **STUDENTS** AT THE
WORCESTERSHIRE ABBEY...

...WHERE I LEARNED THE
SKILLS NECESSARY TO
DEFEND MY **GOD** AND MY
KING...

...AND JOHN LEARNED
SKILLS THAT WERE
CERTAIN TO **OFFEND**
EITHER.

IT WAS THERE WE FIRST
LEARNED OF THE **VALLEY**
OF **MYSTERY**, AND
MADE A **BLOOD PACT**
WITH EACH OTHER THAT
WE WOULD **FATHOM** ITS
TERRIBLE SECRET.

...AND FROM THAT DAY
FORTH, NEITHER **JOHN**, NOR
THE **SWORD** GIVEN ME
UPON COMPLETION OF MY
STUDIES, HAS EVER LEFT
MY **SIDE**.

TOGETHER WE HAVE ENDURED
BATTLE, IMPRISONMENT, TORTURE,
THINGS **NAMED** AND **UNNAMED**...

THOSE DAYS ARE **GONE** NOW. I
AM **ALONE**, BUT I STILL HAVE
A **QUEST**.

I WILL FIND ITS **ANSWER**. I WILL
PROBE ITS **TRUTH**.

AND I WILL SHOUT IT OUT TO
SQUIRE JOHN WHEREVER HIS
SOUL MIGHT LIE.

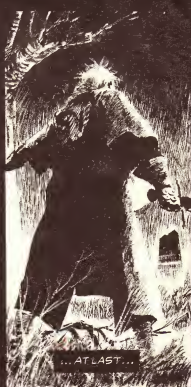
I RISE FROM MY **REVERIES**. SOMEHOW
I KNOW THE ANSWER LIES JUST OVER
THAT FINAL **CREST**.



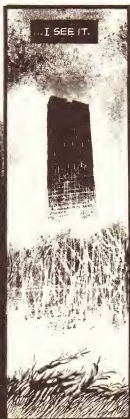
NOTHING *MATTERS* NOW EXCEPT THE *TRUTH*. LIFE, DEATH, PAST, FUTURE ARE ALL BUT *FORGOTTEN*. THERE IS ONLY THE *PRESENT*, THE *IMMEDIATE*.



AND NOW...



...AT LAST...



...I SEE IT.



BUT I DON'T *UNDERSTAND*.

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To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

PRESENTING THE 1975 WARREN AWARDS!

BEST COVERS OF THE YEAR 1975

KEN KELLY

At the 1974 Warren Awards, we predicted that 1975 would be Ken's year! And, true to form, Ken topped even our wildest expectations. Witness the covers reproduced below. Exciting covers that show his sure hand and artistic sense!



Best Covers of 1975: CREEPY #72, 73 and EERIE #64!

BEST ART IN A STORY 1975

BERNI WRIGHTSON

Painting has kept Berni busy in 1975, but luckily he managed to find time for Warren Publishing in his schedule. Besides fine interior cover illustrations, he wrote and illustrated "The Muck Monster," Best Art in A Story in 1976!



Best Art: Wrightson's "Muck Monster," EERIE #68!

ARTIST/WRITER BEST OF THE YEAR 1975

FERNANDO FERNANDEZ

Fernandez' exquisite graphic style has long been admired by Warren readers. Now Fernandez has proven his prowess as a writer, scripting, as well as illustrating, the moving, Warren Award winning sci-fate, "Good-Bye, My Love!"



Artist/Writer Fernandez: "Good-Bye, My Love!"

BEST STORY OF THE YEAR 1975

JIM STENSTRUM

Jim's berzerk! Wild! Erratic! Creative! Completely bananas! And a darn fine writer! These mixed qualities helped create "Thrillkill!" a tense sniper tale that won him reader raves... and a Warren Award! "Thrillkill!"... Best In 1975!



1975's Best Story: Jim Stenstrum's "Thrillkill!"

"Stay with us in 1975. And hold onto your hats. You think Warren can't top 1974?"

"Just watch us!"

This quote from the 1974 Warren Awards proved prophetic. '74 was a very good year for Warren Publishing. But '75 was even better!

It was a particularly good year for covers. Letters pages were full of praise for Ken Kelly's award winning paintings, as well as the gorgeous work of San-Julian and Erich!

Berni Wrightson, Neal Adams and

Wally Wood made brief, much-lauded appearances in 1975 that left Warren readers clamoring for more!

Warren introduced the fine Spanish artist, Zesar. And Alex Toth returned with his own, particularly brilliant brand of graphics... and some of the year's most memorable yarns!

John Severin's work began to appear regularly, to the joy of numerous Severin aficionados the world over! And the superb efforts of Jose Ortiz, Leopold Sanchez, Paul Neary, Aureleon, Esteban Maroto, Ramon Torrents and

Jose Gonzalez continue to make the Warren magazines shine!

But there's more to Warren magazines than pictures! Writers Budd Lewis, Bill DuBay, Gerry Boudreau, Rich Margopoulos, Bruce Jones, Bruce Bezaire and Jim Stenstrum stunned readers with incredible concepts and prolific prose!

EERIE introduced some exciting new series and, in that inimitable EERIE fashion, ended others. El Cid appeared, along with Merlin, Coffin, The Freaks, and an alien called Pie. EERIE intro-

Every year since 1970, the Warren Awards have been presented to the artists and writers who have produced the finest stories and art in Warren Publishing's graphic horror line . . . CREEPY, EERIE and VAMPIRELLA! Past winners have included Frank Frazetta, Archie Goodwin, Neal Adams, Wally Wood, Rich Corben and more of the most talented men in comics. This year's winners were selected from the artists and writers appearing in the Warren magazines in 1975 . . . a group fully representative of the best comics and Warren has to offer. These awards are a tribute to their talent and efforts!

BEST ALL AROUND ARTIST JOHN SEVERIN

"John Severin can draw anything!" raves an excited reader. "Westerns! War stories! Science fiction! Medieval morality tales! City stories! Severin's tops!" We think so too! Thus, Warren votes him "Best All Around Artist" for 1975!



Best All Around Artist: He can draw anything!

BEST ALL AROUND WRITER BRUCE BEZAIRE

Bruce may not be as "bizarre" as his name implies, but his stories are very unusual! Top notch horror adventures like "Gama and the Cockatrice" speculative epics like "Snow" and "Purge" have earned him 1975's Best Writer Award!



Best All Around Writer: Bezaire adventures!

SPECIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

SANJULIAN

Back in 1970, Sanjulian's excellent cover paintings gave Warren covers a powerful, sophisticated look. His paintings continue to grace the covers of Warren magazines . . . and continue to shine! Below: several reasons for his Award!

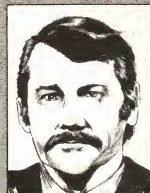


Special Award Covers: EERIE #66, #70 and #71!

SPECIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

ALEX TOTH

Alex Toth is a pioneer, using graphics far ahead of their time and story-telling ability, unsurpassed! Warren Publishing is proud to present him with an award . . . tribute to his innovative art in 1975!



"Pleasure Island!" Incredible Toth graphics!

dured the Exterminator Robots . . . one of which eventually joined another new series character, Hunter II.

VAMPIRELLA took off in a new direction when Bill DuBay took over as writer of the series. And '75 saw the beginning of the great VAMPIRELLA controversy . . . who is the best artist to illustrate the VAMPI series?

The end of hectic, exciting 1975 brought a big change to the Warren magazines. Bill DuBay resigned as Editor of Warren's graphic horror line. He had been with Warren Publishing for

four years. His redesign of the graphics of the interior of the magazines earned him a Warren Award in 1972. Under his leadership, the magazines acquired a unique graphic approach and editorial direction!

The Warren staff, Louise Jones, Bill Mahalley and Jim Imes will miss him as Editor, but readers will be excited to learn that they can now expect to read even more hair-raising DuBay adventures. To his delight, Dube now is able to take pen in hand, full time!

1975 was full of excitement and

change. And '76 will hold even more surprises!

Old writers and artists will be back, of course, with some of their finest stories yet! Characters will be created. Some will disappear . . . and reappear in some very odd places!

We'll be introducing some fine young writers, like Roger McKenzie and Dave Sims. There'll be some new artists. And some old favorites, like Russ Heath, will return!

So if you thought 1975 was a good year, wait'll you see Warren in '76!

REMEMBER RADIO?

SIX GREAT RECORDS FEATURING THE BEST-LOVED OLD RADIO PROGRAMS!

It's all here! For people who remember and people who want to know what the excitement was all about! Organ music, quivering voices, funky commercials. Memorabilia Records brings you the best from an era of greats-favorites from the era when Radio Was King!



MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY "Set up for RE-ENTRY" A crusading reporter, friend of the D.A., uncovers return of exiled underworld boss, Rocky Rictano, the "biggest gangster yet flushed out of hiding." When he is killed, the D.A. vows Rocky's capture and his gang. #2348/\$4.98

F.B.I. PEACE AND WAR "The Traveling Man." A car thief makes plans to double-cross the mob and takes a honeymoon in a stolen car with his innocent bride, providing the F.B.I. with all the clues needed to break up an interstate car theft ring. Ad is Blykreem. #2349/\$4.98

TERRY AND THE PIRATES Terry and Pip meet Countess Catherine. Is she spy or counter-spy? Also, JACK ARMSTRONG "The All-American Boy" joins his friends in the Andes for high adventure as they rescue Allied friends from a glacier cave. By Puffed Wheat & Wheaties. #2350/\$4.98

DANGEBUSTERS 1950 A "documentation" of a police search in Chicago for a local criminal returning from the West Coast with loot from a big heist! There... loot that finally provides the clue to his location and capture—an antique diamond ring! U.S. Defense Bonds. #2351/\$4.98

"INNER SANCTUM #1 "DEATH BY SCRIPTURE" Major Roger Maxon is confronted by an escaping refugee who tells him "If I go back it will mean death, not just for me, but for many." Thus begins an adventure involving the "Black Dragon Society." Lipton Tea. #2352/\$4.98

"INNER SANCTUM #2 "TILL DEATH DO US PART" What a way to spend a wedding night! A honeymooning couple witness a murder, find the corpse in bed in their cabin and themselves the next intended victims of the murderer. Brought to you by tasty Lipton Tea. #2353/\$4.98

PLANET OF THE APES

Giant 9 SQ. FEET

POSTER PUZZLE



GALEN

Giant, full-color and spectacular! This spiffy 44"x30" poster-puzzle is more fun to construct than a barrel of monkeys. The gigantic puzzle with twenty-four mammoth pieces is easily put together to make a huge portrait of television's hero-ape, Galen. And that's where your fun begins. The puzzle comes complete with deluxe mounting strips. Just follow the simple instructions and within minutes you'll own a heavy-duty 9-square-foot poster. Mount it on your wall. It's a sight to see. Galen puzzle goes! #2694/\$4.50

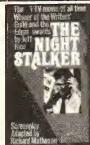
DR. ZAIUS

It's a puzzle! It's a poster! It's a collector's item no ape freak will want to miss. This full-color poster-puzzle of the scientist ape, Dr. Zaius, is 44"x30" that's over 9 square feet. This deluxe heavy-duty cardboard puzzle comes complete with wall mounting materials. Change your puzzle to a poster! It's easy! It's fun. Just follow the simple instructions. Construct an ape on your floor. Hang an ape on your wall. 24 large easy to handle pieces make it a snap. Get a Dr. Zaius puzzle today. Go ape. #2693/\$4.50



PAPERBACK NOVELS OF HORROR

SIX EXCITING ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN



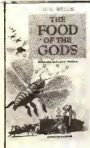
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THE FALLIBLE FIEND is a demon who can't do anything right. A funny, fantastic novel of demonic possession goes awry. #21104/\$1.25



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SWORD OF THE GOLEM The man of stone is returned to life as a hero to the downtrodden. Supernatural novel. #21014/\$1.25



IN THE DAYS OF THE COMET HG Wells' classic tale of a comet that passes over earth and changes all of mankind. Sci-fi epic. #2115/95

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Something for everyone on these great new long-playing records! There's story-telling. The entire saga of the Planet of the Apes. An exciting four story collection! There're groans... moans... howls... growsl galore in the two exciting new records filled with Ghostly Sounds! Ghostly Sounds #1 is a narrated four to terror! Ghostly Sounds #2 lets the sound be your guide through the Vampire's Castle, Graveyard, Phantom's Cathedral & more! A stereo record that's a bargain at the price! Three records. Three avenues to excitement. Perfect for listening, parties or Halloween! Exciting additions to any record library. Monsters. Ghosts. Witches. Demons. Apes. Four terrific records that will horrify, chill and entertain you.



PLANET OF THE APES Four narrated tales complete the Apes Saga. "Planet of the Apes," "Escape from the Planet of the Apes," "Battle" and "Escape from the Planet of the Apes." #2371/\$2.25



GHOSTLY SOUNDS #1 A hollow voiced narrator is your ghostly guide to a spooky array of frightening sound effects. A chilling party record for the not-too-lame hearted. #2371/\$2.25



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A FRAZETTA BOOK

80 PAGES OF FRAZETTA ART!

THE FANTASTIC ART OF FRANK FRAZETTA



The Fantastic Art of Frank Frazetta! This phenomenal 80 page soft cover book contains reproductions of spectacular Frazetta art. Fourteen black and white drawings! Thirty-nine full-color paintings, including nine cover paintings from the Warren magazines! Plus more fabulous paintings from science-fiction, heroic adventure, sword & sorcery! Paintings used as cover illustrations for Brak the Barbarian! Conan! Burrough's novels! Plus detailed studies of three Frazetta masterpieces including the head and torso of the famous first Conan! Fabulous black and white drawings! Untitled pen sketches! "Cindy Is Saved!" Plus nine more full-page black and white illustrations from the Burrough's novels of Africa and Mars. And a special drawing from J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings!" And others! This beautiful collection of drawings and paintings was lovingly chosen and reproduced on heavy weight, coated paper. The colors are vibrant... as beautiful and true to the originals as money, care and skill could make them. Thirty-three paintings and fourteen drawings fill this deluxe 9"x11" soft-bound book, plus Frazetta's biography! #21201/\$5.95

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SUPPLY IS LIMITED—ORDER NOW!
SCARCE! RARE! VALUABLE! AND THEY'RE GOING FAST!
These coveted back issues are in definitely limited supply, so order NOW! Once they're gone, they're gone! Already, great issues of **SCREEN THRILLS ILLUSTRATED** and **SPACEMEN and WILDEST WESTERNS** just aren't available anymore, to the chagrin of thousands of adventure, gothic and action-western film buffs! Comic art fans just can't get **BLAZING COMBAT** #1 anymore, either! So Order NOW!

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Future flicks of Hollywood. Get in on the magic world of Captain Marvel! Greats with Humphrey Bogart, Jimmy Cagney and Edward G. Robinson. #1302 **SCREEN THRILLS ILLUSTRATED** #2 \$4.00



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THE WORLD'S
#1 FAMOUS
MONSTERS

Be a famous monster collector. You can own the 1974 or 1975 FM Convention bag. Both are 14"x17" heavy weight vinyl totes. Printed in red, yellow, black and white. They close with snap-grip handles. The '74 con book has 42 pages; the '75 book - 50 pages. Both 8"x11" packed with fun and convention info. The covers are full color and monstrous. "Wow!" Posters! Classics! The '74 poster is 21"x28". The '75 poster is 20"x27". Both in full vibrant color.

VAMPIRELLA PLASTIC HOBBY KIT

16 SNAP-TOGETHER PLASTIC PARTS! MOVEABLE ARMS & LEGS!

Here she is! Brought sweeping out of the night, flying directly at your neck exclusively by Warren Publishing! Surely the collector's item of the decade! Our own VAMPIRELLA, star of her own magazine, debutante of Dracula, vamp of the veins and artisan of the arteries! In a limited-supply collector's plastic hobby kit that's becoming more rare by the hour! And the hour is bewitching, as vivacious VAMPIRELLA stands assembled before you on your hobby shelf! She has this special added attraction: moveable arms and legs, and a pet black bat to perch on her shoulder! She's a pert, pretty miss, and stands over 5" tall! She's definitely a unique buy, and a certain contrast to your other hobby kits. VAMPIRELLA! - Princess of Dracula! VAMPIRELLA! - She hobnobs with Dracula Himself! VAMPIRELLA! - She travels the world with Dr. Van Helsing in search of justice for herself, and all others WHO CRAVE TO DRINK HUMAN BLOOD! Yes, she's all that and MORE! She's now a super collector's item hobby kit manufactured by YOUR POPULAR DEMAND! Don't hesitate! The supply is definitely limited! Order as many VAMPIRELLA kits as you can - NOW! #2439 VAMPIRELLA KIT \$2.00

SHE'S FANG-TASTIC!



YELLOW SUBMARINE AND PLASTIC BEATLES HOBBY KIT

A collector's item from the days of Beatle mania! Build your own Yellow Submarine from high quality yellow plastic and chrome plated parts. Kit comes complete with decals and painting instructions. Action doors open and rubber band motor propels sub forward through bathtub waters at periscope depth. Instructions and equipment to build Beatles display plaques included. #2412/\$14.95

BUILD IT!
DISPLAY IT!
WIND IT UP
AND FLOAT
IT IN YOUR
BATHTUB!



PEN A POSTER

COLOR YOUR OWN DELUXE PREHISTORIC MONSTERS!

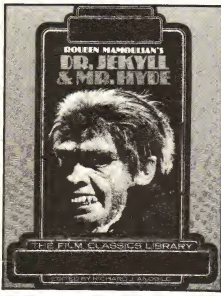
Color this frightening 39"x14 1/2" poster and what will you have? One of the most terrifying wall hangings any do-it-yourself poster freak could ask for! Giant Tyrannosaurus Rex roars. Stegosaurus stalks through a fabulous landscape filled with the lush flora and fauna of the Cretaceous period. Choose your own colors. No one knows how dinosaurs were colored or patterned. Be fanciful. The Pen A Poster kit comes complete with a black and white design on high quality paper and all the colors you'll need to create a prehistoric masterpiece. #2695/\$4.50



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SOFT COVER FILM BOOKS! STOP MOTION SERIALS! NEW FORMAT!

RICHARD J. ANOBILE'S DEFINITIVE RECREATION OF MAMOULIAN'S CLASSIC FILM. 1500 FRAME-BY-FRAME BLOW-UPS PRINTED IN SEQUENCE. COMPLETE DIALOGUE FROM THE SOUNDTRACK PRINTED UNDER APPROPRIATE PHOTOS. 12"x9"



MAMOULIAN'S DR. JEKYLL & MR. HYDE

Between the soft-bound covers of this 256 page film-book classic are over 1500 sequentially reproduced frame blow-up photos. The complete dialogue from the original soundtrack. Every classic scene that could be retrieved from the original production. Rouben Mamoulian's "Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde" starring Frederick March as the doctor who succeeded in separating his good and evil selves and Miriam Hopkins as the woman who paid for his success with her life. Study at your leisure Mamoulian's film technique and the sequence that changes the cultured Dr. Jekyll to the hideous Mr. Hyde. Cinematic impact. In a softcover film book format. #21195/\$4.95



WHALE'S FRANKENSTEIN

James Whale's classic version of "Frankenstein" is reconstructed frame-by-frame in this exciting 12"x9" soft cover film book. 256 pages of over 1000 sequentially presented photos and the complete script reenact the classic scenes from this landmark film starring Colin Clive, Dwight Frye, Mae Clark, John Boles and Boris Karloff as The Monster. Every scene is reproduced. Every work of dialogue from the original soundtrack is present. Includes the oft censored drowning of the little girl. Quality graphics. #21124/\$4.95



THE MALTESE FALCON

Horror star Peter Lorre joins the immortal Humphrey Bogart, Sydney Greenstreet and Mary Astor in this photo journal of the greatest mystery movie of all time. This giant 12"x9" 256 page soft-cover film book presents an accurate film reconstruction of John Huston's "The Maltese Falcon." Over 1400 photos, plus the film's complete dialogue are presented sequentially scene by scene. The result is a beautifully executed graphic rendition of the movie classic. The next best thing to viewing the film. #21125/\$4.95



HITCHCOCK'S PSYCHO

Over 1300 frames coupled with original dialogue from the Hitchcock film makes this 12"x9" soft cover film book a definitive comment on this classic work of psychological horror. Anthony Perkins, Vera Miles, Janet Leigh and John Gavin star. The film is presented in a frame-by-frame breakdown of movie action with complete accompanying film dialogue. 256 pages of photos are presented sequentially. All the memorable and frightening scenes are there, including the famous murder sequence in the shower. #21163/\$4.95

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COLOR REPRODUCTIONS 40 SCI-FI COVERS

Galaxy. Fantastic. Amazing. Analog. Science Wonder Stories. Titles to warm the heart of any science fiction enthusiast! Now Ballantine Books has created a deluxe 96 page review... 40 full-page full-color reproductions of the best sci-fi covers created between 1926 and 1954! The 8-1/2"x11-1/2" soft cover format, printed on slick, heavy-duty stock, is large enough to be easily visible... small enough to be easily handled. These covers were chosen from among the thousands spanning 38 years of magazine publication by prominent science fiction writer Lester del Rey, who also provides plate annotations and a 16-page introduction to the genre. A must for S-F fans. #21193/\$5.95

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159 pages of cliff-hanging suspense in one great 4-1/4"x7" paperback package. Eight haunting tales of the macabre & mysterious of the present, past and future. Eight Berni Wrightson drawings. #21043/95¢



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A POE-INSPIRED FREE-PRIZED NEW PRODUCTS

Leonard Wolf: MONSTERS



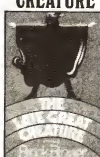
This 7-3/4"x7-3/4" paperback is a 128 page assembly of 20 classic monsters. From Minotaur, Phoenix, Griffin to Frankenstein, King Kong and Godzilla, Wolf relates their history and significance. Old woodcuts, engravings and illustrations plus modern photos enliven the already lively text. #21146 MONSTERS \$4.95

Modesty Blaise: IMPOSSIBLE VIRGIN



MODESTY BLAISE! Back, for you Action fans! A lady secret agent, star of the British comic strip by author Peter O'Donnell: a 209 page, 5 1/2"x8 1/2" hardcover novel. #21085 MODESTY BLAISE \$3.95

LATE, GREAT CREATURE



Fast paced 300 page 5-1/2"x8-1/2" hardcover novel of a Hollywood monster star whose appearance in his last horror film builds to a terrifying climax! #21083 THE LATE, GREAT CREATURE \$3.95

PREHISTORIC ANIMALS



PREHISTORIC (Monster) ANIMALS

Mammoth 8-5/8"x12 inch hardcover book, illustrated with fantastic full-color paintings of huge lumbering giants and wily weird wonders of the prehistoric past! Fine, fact-packed and fascinating! 93 pages. First sold at \$4.00! #21084 PREHISTORIC ANIMALS \$2.95

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HORROR HARDCOVER IL PIACERE DELLA PAURA THE PLEASURES OF FEAR



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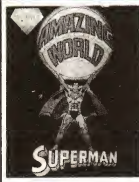


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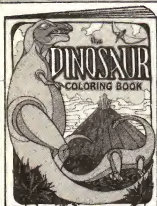
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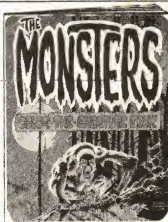
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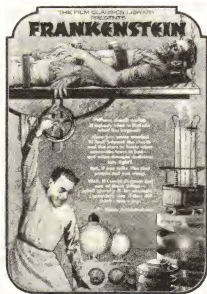


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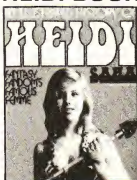
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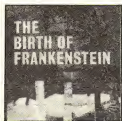
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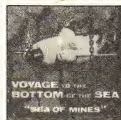
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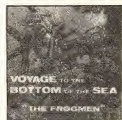
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to look beyond the clouds
and the stars or know what
causes the trees to bud—
and what changes darkness
into light?

But, if one talks like that
people call you crazy.

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what eternity is, for example—
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think I was crazy."

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